

THE CRITICAL REVIEW.

For JULY, 1784.

A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean. Undertaken, by the Command of his Majesty, for making Discoveries in the Northern Hemisphere. To determine the Position and Extent of the West Side of North America; its Distance from Asia; and the Practicability of a Northern Passage to Europe. Performed under the Direction of Captains Cook, Clerke, and Gore, in the Years 1776, 1777, 1778, 1779, and 1780. Vol. I. and II. written by Capt. Cook. Vol. III. by Capt. King. Illustrated with Maps and Charts, from the original Drawings made by Lieut. Roberts, under the Direction of Capt. Cook; and with Portraits of Persons, Views of Places, and Representations of remarkable Incidents, drawn by Mr. Webber during the Voyage, and engraved by eminent Artists. In Three Vols. 4to. and One Vol. Folio Plates. 4l. 14s. 6d. in Boards. G. Nicol, Bookseller to his Majesty.

THE attention of Europe was long fixed on captain Cook's last voyage; and expectation has been almost wearied by its delay. It was certainly an object of considerable importance; as, independent of many lesser views, it would probably ascertain some facts, whose utility might be indisputable, and whose influence would be extensive. Voyages of discovery have not always been happy in their event: the few objects which have been attained, were generally purchased by the distress of the discoverers, and the more complicated misery of those who were discovered. In the attempts of captain Cook, humanity is generally gratified; for his own crew have been almost exempted from the usual chances of mortality, or at least have not suffered in any extraordinary degree; and if the islanders whom he has visited have not benefited from the intercourse, it must rather be ascribed to their ignorance and inattention than to his neglect. It is not our present business to oppose the objections of those who, from an affected humanity, or a philosophical apathy, lament the lot of simplicity and innocence, which are thus exposed to the snares of luxury and depravity. In their declamations, every kind of commerce is, on the same foundation, rejected;

VOL. LVIII. July, 1784.

B

and

and their arguments, while they enjoy the luxury of both the Indies, would lead us, if pursued to their full extent, to be contented with what our own island can supply. But they are little acquainted with the poverty of northern climates; and, if there had never been any commerce, are not perhaps aware that we should have been without that food which is now the support of the lowest ranks. So early was England the object of navigation, that we are scarcely acquainted with our own productions; but we are sure that neither wheat nor sheep were among them. The great object of captain Cook, in his last voyage, was the discovery of a north-east passage into the Atlantic ocean, which a slight acquaintance with geography will show, would have greatly facilitated the passage from Europe to India, as well as that from Europe to the western coasts of America; and if at the same time the Arctic Ocean were passable, the navigation from hence to either continent would be very considerably diminished. The subordinate views were numerous. The improvement of navigation, and geography in general, was of the highest importance. The connection of the old and new world would probably afford a solution of some very intricate questions; and the nature and constitution of the globe itself would be materially elucidated, by surveying, with a philosophic eye, countries in various states of progression. In all these respects, we have received the highest satisfaction from the voyage before us.

In a very sensible Introduction, by the editor, we are informed of the state of geography previous to the voyages of discovery in the present reign, and of the improvements which resulted from them. A very interesting part of this Introduction is an account of the attempts which have been made to discover a passage from Hudson's Bay to the northern Pacific, subsequent to those related by Mr. Ellis*. Geographers know what expectations were entertained from Wager's Strait, and Rankin's Inlet, which were confidently supposed to open into the Pacific Ocean; but the one was incontestably proved to be a river, and the other a close bay. Chesterfield's Inlet and Repulse Bay, were the next objects of the most sanguine expectations. The former between 63 and 64 degrees, the latter in 67° north latitude; but the high latitude of the last was sufficient to prevent a search, for the ice must render the navigation frequently difficult, if not impracticable. The former, in 1762, was completely followed, till, at the distance of about one hundred and seventy miles from the sea, it was found to arise from a lake twenty-one leagues long, and from five to ten broad. The lake soon terminated in three falls, one above another, and there was not water for a small

* Voyage to Hudson's Bay.

boat over them; the ridges were mostly dry from side to side, for five or six miles higher. This would, in our opinion, decide the question of a passage at any part of this bay, from the general nature of rivers, and their sources. To the south of this river lies Pistol Bay. This too was supposed to be an opening, but it does not extend above three or four miles. Copper-mine river was mentioned by the northern Indians, and raised the drooping expectations of some speculative voyagers. This too has been at last explored; and the result of the journey is here given: we anxiously wish to see the whole published, for it must be in many respects highly useful and entertaining. Mr. Hearne's map is copied on the general chart; and it appears, that about the middle of the continent there are many lakes; but the nearest part of the Pacific from the westernmost of these lakes, must be at least one thousand seven hundred miles. Mr. Hearne's journey was to the north-west, and his most western distance from Hudson's Bay was near six hundred miles. We shall relate part of the journey, in his own words; and our readers will then be able to judge of the practicability of a passage in that direction.

' In the month of June, 1771, being then at a place called Conge catha wha Chaga, he had, to use his own words, "two good observations, both by meridian and double altitudes, the mean of which determines this place to be in latitude $68^{\circ} 46'$ north, and, by account, in longitude $24^{\circ} 2'$ west of Churchill River." On the 13th of July (having left Conge catha wha Chaga on the 2d, and travelling still to the west of north) he reached the Copper-mine River; and was not a little surprised to find it differ so much from the descriptions given of it by the natives at the fort; for, instead of being likely to be navigable for a ship, it is, at this part, scarce navigable for an Indian canoe; three falls being in sight, at one view, and being choaked up with shoals and stony ridges.

' Here Mr. Hearne began his survey of the river. This he continued till he arrived at its mouth, near which his northern Indians massacred twenty-one Esquimaux, whom they surprised in their tents. We shall give Mr. Hearne's account of his arrival at the sea in his own words. "After the Indians had plundered the tents of the Esquimaux of all the copper, &c. they were then again ready to assist me in making an end to the survey; the sea then in sight from the north-west-by-west to the north-east, distant about eight miles. It was then about five in the morning of the 17th, when I again proceeded to survey the river to the mouth, still found, in every respect, no ways likely, or a possibility of being made navigable, being full of shoals and falls; and, at the entrance, the river emptying itself over a dry flat of the shore. For the tide was then out, and seemed, by the edges of the ice, to flow about twelve or fourteen feet, which will only reach a little within the

river's mouth. That being the case, the water in the river had not the least brackish taste. But I am sure of its being the sea, or some part thereof, by the quantity of whale-bone and seal skins the Esquimaux had at their tents; as also the number of seals which I saw upon the ice. The sea, at the river's mouth, was full of islands and shoals, as far as I could see, by the assistance of a pocket telescope; and the ice was not yet broken up, only thawed away about three quarters of a mile from the shore, and a little way round the island and shoals.

By the time I had completed this survey, it was about one in the morning of the 18th; but in these high latitudes, and at this time of the year, the sun is always a good height above the horizon. It then came on a thick drizzling rain, with a thick fog; and, as finding the river and sea, in every respect, not likely to be of any utility, I did not think it worth while to wait for fair weather, to determine the latitude exactly by an observation. But, by the extraordinary care I took in observing the courses and distances, walked from Congecathawha-chaaga, where I had two good observations, the latitude may be depended on, within twenty miles at farthest."

From the map which Mr. Hearne constructed of the country through which he passed, in this singular journey, and which we have been permitted to copy upon our general chart, it appears that the mouth of the Copper-mine River lies in the latitude 72° , and above 25° west longitude from the fort, from whence he took his departure."

We must select another part of this journal, because it materially elucidates some facts related in the subsequent voyage. The whole note is interesting, and contains the adventure of a dog-ribbed Indian woman, taken prisoner by the Arathapescow Indians, a nation to the westward of the lakes already mentioned.

Her country is so far to the westward, that she says she never saw any iron, or other kind of metal, till taken prisoner; those of her tribe making their hatchets and chisels of deers horns, and knives of stone and bone; their arrows are shod with a kind of slate, bones, and deers horns; and their instruments to make their wood work, are nothing but beavers teeth. They have frequently heard of the useful materials the nations to the east of them are supplied with from the English; but, instead of drawing nearer to be in the way of trading for iron work, &c. are obliged to retreat farther back, to avoid the Arathapescow Indians, as they make surprising slaughter among them every year, both winter and summer."

We must guard however against one source of error in the chart: a tribe of Indians are called Copper Indians; but the name is given from their vicinity to Copper-mine River, rather than from their colour; for none of the inhabitants of this part of the continent resemble in colour the native Indians of the southern parts of America.

The

The great object of the editor, in this account, is to defend captain Cook's instructions, which directed him to seek the passage into the Atlantic at, or above, 65° of north latitude; and they are more particularly supported by the examination of the coast in a lower latitude, by the Spaniards. Indeed no person, who was much acquainted with the American continent, could have blamed their propriety. If there was a passage by sea from Hudson's Streights, it could not easily have terminated far to the south of the Streights themselves. The editor next explains, at some length, the advantages resulting from this voyage. On this account we declined the subject, in the beginning of the article, and must now refer to the Introduction. We fully agree with him in every part, except that the source of the population of America is by this means ascertained. We think the question more uncertain than ever; but a few previous reflections will probably facilitate our enquiries on this subject, and enable us to introduce some interesting extracts from the voyage itself.

Whoever has examined the internal parts of this earth, has perceived marks of considerable changes in its appearance. As these required an endless series of ages to be gradually produced, they have been referred to some general and violent convulsion. There is a period, from which we must necessarily begin, when the earth had nearly its present form. The great changes, subsequent to that period, have been generally produced by volcanos; and this system is now become so fashionable, that almost every other cause has been overlooked. We have already observed, that one of the objects of similar attempts, has been to examine the earth in its progressive stages. In the South Sea, islands have been found in various states; and we are taught by them, to distrust the universal operation of volcanoes. We have had a recent proof, that islands may really be produced by the operation of the last cause; but those which are at present our object, are frequently the work of an apparently insignificant insect.—We shall transcribe captain Cook's opinion on this subject.

‘There are different opinions, amongst ingenious theorists, concerning the formation of such low islands as Palmerston's. Some will have it, that, in remote times, these little separate heads or islets were joined, and formed one continued and more elevated tract of land, which the sea, in the revolution of ages, has washed away, leaving only the higher grounds; which, in time, also will, according to this theory, share the same fate. Another conjecture is, that they have been thrown up by earthquakes, and are the effect of internal convulsions of the globe. A third opinion, and which appears to me as the most probable one, maintains, that they are formed from shoals, or coral banks, and, of consequence, increasing. Without mentioning the several arguments

made use of in support of each of these systems, I shall only describe such parts of Palmerston's Island, as fell under my own observation when I landed upon it.

' The foundation is, every where, a coral rock; the soil is coral sand, with which the decayed vegetables have, but in a few places, intermixed, so as to form any thing like mould. From this a very strong presumption may be drawn, that these little spots of land are not of very ancient date, nor the remains of larger islands now buried in the ocean. For, upon either of these suppositions, more mould must have been formed, or some part of the original soil would have remained. Another circumstance confirmed this doctrine of the increase of these islets. We found upon them, far beyond the present reach of the sea, even in the most violent storms, elevated coral rocks, which, on examination, appeared to have been perforated, in the same manner that the rocks are, that now compose the outer edge of the reef. This evidently shews that the sea had formerly reached so far; and some of these perforated rocks were almost in the centre of the land.

' But the strongest proof of the increase, and from the cause we have assigned, was the gentle gradation observable in the plants round the skirts of the islands; from within a few inches of high-water mark, to the edge of the wood. In many places, the divisions of the plants, of different growths, were very distinguishable, especially on the lee, or west side. This, I apprehend, to have been the operation of extraordinary high tides, occasioned by violent, accidental gales from the westward; which have heaped up the sand beyond the reach of common tides. The regular and gentle operation of these latter again, throw up sand enough to form a barrier against the next extraordinary high tide, or storm, so as to prevent its reaching as far as the former had done, and destroying the plants that may have begun to vegetate from cocoa-nuts, roots, and seed, brought thither by birds, or thrown up by the sea. This, doubtless, happens very frequently; for we found many cocoa-nuts, and some other things, just sprouting up, only a few inches beyond where the sea reaches at present, in places where, it was evident, they could not have had their origin from those farther in, already arrived at their full growth. At the same time, the increase of vegetables will add fast to the height of this new-created land; as the fallen leaves and broken branches are, in such a climate, soon converted into a true black mould, or soil.

' Perhaps there is another cause, which, if allowed, will accelerate the increase of these islands as much as any other; and will also account for the sea having receded from those elevated rocks before mentioned. This is, the spreading of the coral bank, or reef, into the sea; which, in my opinion, is continually, though imperceptibly, effected. The waves receding, as the reef grows in breadth and height, leave a dry rock behind, ready for the reception of the broken coral and sand, and every other deposit necessary for the formation of land fit for the vegetation of plants.

' In this manner, there is little doubt, that, in time, the whole reef will become one island; and, I think, it will extend gradually

ally inward, either from the increase of the islots already formed; or from the formation of new ones, upon the beds of coral, within the inclosed lake, if once they increase so as to rise above the level of the sea.'

It is perhaps worth remarking, that even in these islands, volcanoes have some share. In the coral islands, the sea is very deep in general, on every side; and it may be enquired, what occasions this particular arrangement of coral, at a determined spot? To say it is a partial elevation of the bottom by a volcano, may be considered as begging the question; yet we find captain Cook observed, at Anamooka, that,

'There seemed to be no rocks, or stones, of any kind, about the island, that are not coral; except in one place, to the right of the sandy beach, where there is a rock twenty or thirty feet high, of a calcareous stone, of a yellowish colour and a very close texture. But even about that place, which is the highest part of the land, are large pieces of the same coral rock that composes the shore.'

Again, in Tongataboo, a coral island, Mr. Anderson mentions a clayey stratum. At the same place, captain Cook found a coral rock, in a part of the island, elevated one hundred feet above the level of the sea; and yet his arguments, which we have transcribed, respecting the low islands, apply with exactness to *all* the coral islands; for the difference of height above the sea is lost, in comparison with the distance of the ground below its surface. In the neighbourhood of Tongataboo, the Resolution passed over some coral rocks, where there was only six fathom of water; but the moment they were passed, no ground was found with eighty fathom of line. This sudden elevation is not consistent with the hills formed by irregular strata; and, if we wanted a farther support, it may be observed, that volcanos are by no means uncommon either in the Friendly or Society Islands.

The height of the trees in some of the highest of the Friendly Islands, and their want of any records, except tradition, gives them the appearance of antiquity; but all these marks are very uncertain. The depth of soil is no less so; and we apprehend the canon Recupero, at Mount Etna, would not have been so much distressed about the antiquity of his mountain, if he had understood the nature of lava; but this subject we must enlarge on in another place. We shall now relate some of the circumstances, which occurred in this very interesting voyage, of which, as has been already mentioned, the course has been before described.

In the course from the Cape of Good Hope, captain Cook ascertained the situation of Kerguelen's Island. It lies in latitude about $48^{\circ} 50'$ south; the longitude is more uncertain;

most probably about 69° east from London. It contains an excellent harbour, where good water is easily procured, but no other refreshments; not a shrub is even to be seen on the island: the apparent verdure proceeded from a small plant resembling the saxifrage. Peat for fuel may be easily procured; but its whole flora is said not to exceed eighteen species. The birds are more numerous, and the amphibious animals common. The rocks are composed of a dark blue and very hard stone, intermixed with small particles of glimmer or quartz.

‘ Another brownish brittle stone forms here some considerable rocks; and one which is blacker, and found in detached pieces, incloses bits of coarse quartz. A red, a dull yellow, and a purplish sand-stone, are also found in small pieces; and pretty large lumps of semi-transparent quartz, disposed irregularly in polyedral and pyramidal crystals of long shining fibres. Some small pieces of the common sort are met with in the brooks, made round by attrition; but none hard enough to resist a file. Nor were any of the other stones acted on by aqua fortis, or attracted by the magnet.’

It is highly probable, from this description, that the country is volcanic. In the passage to Van Diemen's Land nothing remarkable occurred; and the inhabitants of this miserable spot live almost entirely on shell-fish. This is now known to be the southern extremity of what may be called a continent: it certainly much exceeds in size every other island in the world, and undoubtedly contains fertile valleys, and a respectable race of inhabitants. We ought not to estimate the inhabitants of Peru and Chili, from the despicable tribes which occasionally inhabit the shores on either side of the Straits of Magellan. The country seems to be composed of a sandy rock; but a particular cape is called Fluted, probably from its appearance. If so, it must be basaltic.

The inhabitants and country of New Zealand have been described in the former voyages. In this second visit, the melancholy end of captain Furneaux's boat-crew was explained. It was in many respects very similar, in its circumstances, to the subsequent death of captain Cook. The vegetables formerly planted there, have been destroyed or neglected, though the potatoes are said to have improved exceedingly. The natural history of the country and its inhabitants is related, at some length, by Mr. Anderson; but our limits will not permit us to enlarge on these subjects.

In the subsequent passage to the Friendly Islands many new islands were discovered; but their inhabitants resembled those which had been met with before, about this spot, in the previous voyages. Frank, generous, courteous, and hospitable, these happy islanders enjoy a variety of blessings; and it depends

pend on themselves alone to insure their own felicity. Though many new islands are added to this group, many others seem still to be undiscovered. Sixty-one of those islands are already marked out on the chart; but an hundred more remain yet unexplored; of these Tasman seems to have seen eighteen or twenty, and to have called them Prince William's Islands. Fifteen are said to be high and hilly, like Toofoa, and therefore to be more certainly volcanic; for the volcano on this last island is still burning, and affords the smooth black stone, of which the hatchets are made. Thirty-five are large islands, that is, larger than Annamooka, which ranks among the small ones. Tongabattoo, which is a large island, is about twenty leagues in circumference; though Fejee must either be larger, or have a greater number of tributaries, since, in frequent contests, the latter are allowed, even by their enemies, to be superior.

During their abode of some months in the Friendly Islands, our voyagers seem to have acquired much knowledge of their history and constitution, their customs and amusements. These are related with considerable clearness, and sometimes with peculiar energy. We are sorry that their length obliges us to be silent on the subject. We ought however to mention, that this is not only an animated picture of striking and peculiar manners, but an accurate representation of the human mind, and its exertions in situations, to us uncommon. The government seems in itself a branch of that despotism which distinguishes the nations of the East, combined with an aristocracy, arising from an original apparently patriarchal, that is, from the influence of property and relationship. This is not, on the whole, the happiest mixture; but the situation of our islanders prevent a frequent jarring of these heterogeneous principles, or any very irregular exertion of power. Among the diseases, we distinguish the elephantiasis and sarcocoele of some parts at least of the nearest continent.

In pursuit of the very interesting objects of his attempt, our celebrated navigator proceeded to the Society Islands, of which the principal one is Otaheite. Many countries of Europe are now perhaps less known in England, than this remote island in the Pacific Ocean; and our author has considerably extended our acquaintance with it. There are few circumstances which so much excite our abhorrence as human sacrifices, and the custom of partaking of the horrid banquet. It is more surprising to find the former frequent, and the latter probably abolished, at no very distant period, among men apparently innocent, chearful, and benevolent.

‘It is probable, that these bloody rites of worship are prevalent throughout all the islands of the Pacific Ocean. The familiarity
of

of customs and language, which our late voyages have enabled us to trace, between the most distant of those islands, makes it not unlikely, that some of the more important articles of their religious institutions should agree. And, indeed, we had the most authentic information, that human sacrifices continue to be offered at the Friendly Islands. When I described the natche at Tongataboo, I mentioned that, on the approaching sequel of that festival, we had been told, that ten men were to be sacrificed. This may give us an idea of the extent of this religious massacre, in that island. And though we should suppose, that never more than one person is sacrificed, on any single occasion, at Otaheite, it is more than probable, that the occasions happen so frequently, as to make a shocking waste of the human race; for I counted no less than forty-nine skulls, of former victims, lying before the morai, where we saw one more added to the number. And as none of those skulls had, as yet, suffered any considerable change from the weather, it may hence be inferred, that no great length of time had elapsed, since, at least, this considerable number of unhappy wretches had been offered upon this altar of blood.

Nor do these dreadful rites make a suitable impression on those for whom the victim is sacrificed. Like every ceremony, constantly practised, it fails of fixing the attention of the persons engaged in it. There is great reason also to believe, that there was a time when they were themselves cannibals. At New Zealand or the Sandwich Islands, and some parts of the coast of America, they continue to be so.

‘ We were told (and indeed partly saw it) that it is a necessary ceremony, when a poor wretch is sacrificed, for the priest to take out the left eye. This he presents to the king, holding it to his mouth, which he desires him to open; but, instead of putting it in, immediately withdraws it. This they call “eating the man,” or “food for the chief;” and, perhaps, we may observe here some traces of former times, when the dead body was really feasted upon.’

The principal subjects, which are more particularly explained are, the religion and language of Otaheite, their mental attainments, and the natural history of their islands. The customs of New Zealand are softened in a different climate, and among a gentler race. We have already seen one instance of their approaches to refinement, which are again almost lost in the Sandwich Islands. Less active and spirited in every exertion but those of pleasure, they yield, in the more animated pursuits, to their northern and southern neighbours. They are less formidable in war, and less violent in their resentments. The language, which is nearly the same in the various groups of islands, assumes in these a feminine softness, by the omission of some harsher consonants, and the change

change of others into liquids. Their religion sinks into an abject superstition; and they scarcely enjoy the profuse liberality, which Providence has bestowed on their island, through terror of imaginary or subordinate agents.

• Their assiduity in serving their gods is remarkably conspicuous. Not only the whattas, or offering-places of the morais, are commonly loaded with fruits and animals; but there are few houses where you do not meet with a small place of the same sort near them. Many of them are so rigidly scrupulous, that they will not begin a meal without first laying aside a morsel for the Eatooa; and we had the opportunity, during the voyage, of seeing their superstitious zeal carried to a most pernicious height, in the instance of human sacrifices; the occasions of offering which, I doubt, are too frequent. Perhaps, they have recourse to them when misfortunes occur; for they asked me, if one of our men, who happened to be confined, when we were detained by a contrary wind, was tabò? Their prayers are also very frequent, which they chant, much after the manner of the songs in their festive entertainments. And the women, as in other cases, are also obliged to shew their inferiority in religious observances; for it is required of them, that they should partly uncover themselves, as they pass the morais, or take a considerable circuit to avoid them. Though they have no notion, that their god must always be conferring benefits, without sometimes forgetting them, or suffering evil to befall them, they seem to regard this less than the attempts of some more auspicious being to hurt them. They tell us, that Etee is an evil spirit, who sometimes does them mischief; and to whom, as well as to their god, they make offerings. But the mischiefs they apprehend from any superior invisible beings, are confined to things merely temporal.

• They imagine, that their punctual performance of religious offices procures for them every temporal blessing. And as they believe that the animating and powerful influence of the divine spirit is every where diffused, it is no wonder that they join to this many superstitious opinions about its operations. Accordingly, they believe that sudden deaths, and all other accidents, are effected by the immediate action of some divinity. If a man only stumble against a stone, and hurt his toe, they impute it to an Eatooa; so that they may be literally said, agreeably to their system, to tread enchanted ground. They are startled, in the night, on approaching a toopapaoo, where the dead are exposed, in the same manner that many of our ignorant and superstitious people are with the apprehensions of ghosts, and at the sight of a church-yard; and they have an equal confidence in dreams, which they suppose to be communications either from their god, or from the spirits of their departed friends, enabling those favoured with them to foretell future events; but this kind of knowledge is confined to particular people. Omai pretended to have this gift. He told us, that the soul of his father had intimated to him in a dream, on the

the

the 26th of July, 1776, that he should go on shore, at some place, within three days; but he was unfortunate in this first attempt to persuade us that he was a prophet; for it was the 1st of August before we got into Teneriffe. Amongst them, however, the dreamers possess a reputation little inferior to that of their inspired priests and priestesses, whose predictions they implicitly believe, and are determined by them in all undertakings of consequence. The priestess who persuaded Opoony to invade Ulietea, is much respected by him; and he never goes to war without consulting her. They also, in some degree, maintain our old doctrine of planetary influence; at least, they are sometimes regulated, in their public counsels, by certain appearances of the moon; particularly, when lying horizontally, or much inclined on the convex part, on its first appearance after the change, they are encouraged to engage in war, with confidence of success.

Their legends of the creation, and on other subjects, are only remarkable, as they in one instance point out the origin of their aversion to cannibals, from the depredations of two strangers, called Taheei, the only name they have yet for persons who feed on human flesh. But if there is any truth in such traditions, this may shew the probability of migrations from a distant island, and the actual existence of this dreadful custom. There is a fact mentioned in the former volume, which sufficiently evinces the probability of one island being peopled from another, and accounts for the great similarity of customs and language through the vast extent of this ocean. But this fact we shall more particularly relate hereafter.

As they are deficient in activity and resolution, when compared to their neighbours, we may suppose that their minds are in other respects inferior. But the acquaintance of the voyagers with the other islanders was not sufficient to compare them, in this respect. In all the islands, the numeration was uncertain; and the inhabitants of Otaheite were unable to compute time, when extended to a considerable period. If Omai were a specimen of his countrymen, it was not observed that he possessed discernment or judgment. His curiosity was a childish eagerness, and his brilliancy the effects only of momentary impressions. He certainly was not calculated to be happier from the improvements which he made in his voyage, or able to contribute to the refinement or instruction of his countrymen. He wanted the weight of rank and family: he wanted too, solid knowledge and rational improvement: his mind was still imperfect; and the toys of which his cargo consisted, served rather to amuse than instruct; but if it had been assorted with more judgment, like the heavy sword, it must have owed its effects to the strength of the hand which wielded it.

‘It was no small satisfaction, says Captain Cook, to reflect, that we had brought him safe back to the very spot from which he was taken. And, yet, such is the strange nature of human affairs, that it is probable we left him in a less desirable situation, than he was in before his connexion with us. I do not, by this, mean, that, because he has tasted the sweets of civilized life, he must become more miserable from being obliged to abandon all thoughts of continuing them. I confine myself to this single disagreeable circumstance, that the advantages he received from us, have placed him in a more hazardous situation, with respect to his personal safety. Omai, from being much caressed in England, lost sight of his original condition; and never considered in what manner his acquisitions, either of knowledge or of riches, would be estimated by his countrymen, at his return; which were the only things he could have to recommend him to them now, more than before, and on which he could build either his future greatness or happiness. He seemed even to have mistaken their genius in this respect; and, in some measure, to have forgotten their customs; otherwise he must have known the extreme difficulty there would be in getting himself admitted as a person of rank, where there is, perhaps, no instance of a man’s being raised from an inferior station by the greatest merit. Rank seems to be the very foundation of all distinction here, and, of its attendant, power; and so pertinaciously, or rather blindly adhered to, that, unless a person has some degree of it, he will certainly be despised and hated, if he assumes the appearance of exercising any authority. This was really the case, in some measure, with Omai; though his countrymen were pretty cautious of expressing their sentiments while we remained amongst them. Had he made a proper use of the presents he brought with him from England, this, with the knowledge he had acquired by travelling so far, might have enabled him to form the most useful connections.’—

‘Whatever faults belongs to Omai’s character, they were more than overbalanced by his great good nature and docile disposition. During the whole time he was with me, I very seldom had reason to be seriously displeased with his general conduct.—He had a tolerable share of understanding, but wanted application and perseverance to exert it; so that his knowledge of things was very general, and, in many instances, imperfect. He was not a man of much observation. There were many useful arts, as well as elegant amusements, amongst the people of the Friendly Islands, which he might have conveyed to his own; where they probably would have been readily adopted, as being so much in their own way. But I never found that he used the least endeavour to make himself master of any one. This kind of indifference is, indeed, the characteristic foible of his nation. Europeans have visited them, at times, for these ten years past; yet we could not discover the slightest trace of any attempt to profit by this intercourse; nor have they hitherto

copied

copied after us in any one thing. We are not, therefore, to expect that Omai will be able to introduce many of our arts and customs amongst them, or much improve those to which they have been long habituated. -- The greatest benefits these islands are likely to receive from Omai's travels, will be in the animals that have been left upon them; which, probably, they never would have got, had he not come to England.

If Omai's dignity or felicity are not increased, we may at least conclude that we have added to the comforts of his countrymen, by increasing their resources. Various seeds, and different useful animals, will add their riches to this fertile spot; and it may then indeed boast of its conveniencies and luxuries. Captain Cook seems, however, to think differently; and we shall insert his opinion, though we own there are many circumstances which will probably contribute to lessen the effects which he apprehends.

I own, I cannot avoid expressing it as my real opinion, that it would have been far better for these poor people never to have known our superiority in the accommodations and arts that make life comfortable, than, after once knowing it, to be again left and abandoned to their original incapacity of improvement. Indeed, they cannot be restored to that happy mediocrity in which they lived before we discovered them, if the intercourse between us should be discontinued. It seems to me, that it has become, in a manner, incumbent on the Europeans to visit them once in three or four years, in order to supply them with those conveniencies which we have introduced among them, and have given them a predilection for. The want of such occasional supplies will probably be felt very heavily by them, when it may be too late to go back to their old less perfect contrivances, which they now despise, and have discontinued, since the introduction of ours. For, by the time that the iron tools, of which they are now possessed, are worn out, they will have almost lost the knowledge of their own. A stone hatchet is, at present, as rare a thing amongst them, as an iron one was eight years ago; and a chissel of bone, or stone, is not to be seen. Spike-nails have supplied the place of these last; and they are weak enough to fancy, that they have got an inexhaustible store of them; for these were not now at all sought after. Sometimes, however, nails, much smaller than a spike, would still be taken in exchange for fruit. Knives happened, at present, to be in great esteem at Ulitea; and axes and hatchets remained unrivalled by any other of our commodities, at all the islands. With respect to articles of mere ornament, these people are as changeable as any of the polished nations of Europe; so that what pleases their fancy, while a fashion is in vogue, may be rejected when another whim has supplanted it. But our iron tools are so strikingly useful, that they will, we may confidently pronounce, continue to prize them highly; and be completely miserable,

miserable, if, neither possessing the materials, nor trained up to the art of fabricating them, they should cease to receive supplies of what may now be considered as having become necessary to their comfortable existence.

These islands are, like the others, chiefly low, and composed of coral; yet here also are marks of volcanos. A pond or lake is mentioned, at three or four days distance, with large eels in it; but this fact, which might excite curiosity, is not accurately detailed. Perhaps it is the remains of a lagoon, and inhabited only by those fish which are equally pleased with salt or fresh water. Another is said to contain a yellow sediment; and that the water is fatal to those who drink it, or makes them break out in blotches, if they bathe in it. The sediment, though very uncommon, we should suspect to be orpiment.

In the vast extent of the ocean, to the north of the Society Islands, it is now generally known, that we found another groupe called Sandwich Islands, whose inhabitants we have already mentioned. Their particular nature, and the customs of the natives, we must again attend to in the subsequent parts of this work; so that we shall only transcribe our navigator's sentiments of their utility.

Had the Sandwich Islands been discovered at an early period, by the Spaniards, there is little doubt that they would have taken advantage of so excellent a situation, and have made use of Atooi, or some other of the islands, as a refreshing place to the ships, that sail annually from Atapulco for Manilla. They lie almost midway between the first place and Guam, one of the Ladrões, which is at present their only port in traversing this vast ocean; and it would not have been a week's sail out of their common route, to have touched at them; which could have been done, without running the least hazard of losing the passage, as they are sufficiently within the verge of the easterly trade-wind. An acquaintance with the Sandwich Islands would have been equally favourable to our buccaneers, who used sometimes to pass from the coast of America to the Ladrões, with a stock of food and water scarcely sufficient to preserve life. Here they might always have found plenty, and have been within a month's sure sail of the very part of California, which the Manilla ship is obliged to make, or else have returned to the coast of America, thoroughly refitted, after an absence of two months. How happy would Lord Anson have been, and what hardships would he have avoided, if he had known that there was a group of islands, half way between America and Tinian, where all his wants could have been effectually supplied; and in describing which the elegant historian of that voyage, would have presented his reader with a more agreeable picture than I have been able to draw in this chapter!

To the north of 40° latitude, our author observes, that there are fewer birds, than in the same latitude of the southern hemisphere; or, what is more probable, fewer islands to rest on. Indeed, except those called by the Russians Fox Islands, situated to the west of Oonalaska, whose number is uncertain, and whose situation has not been correctly fixed, scarcely any thing which deserves the name of an island has been discovered.

The ornaments of this very important work are numerous and splendid. There are twenty-five charts or views of land. The general chart is constructed with the greatest care, by Mr. Roberts, from the best authorities, which the accumulated knowledge of successive ages, and repeated examination, have produced. The others are more partial; but all are probably as accurate as the time employed in different parts of the voyage could render them. The plates are views of the habitations, manners, and customs of the inhabitants, or of the inhabitants themselves. Mr. Webber, who was appointed draughtsman to this voyage, has performed his part with the utmost ability. He brought home many drawings, done in the manner which the artists distinguish by washed and tinted. Though it is certain that they could not be all engraved, yet we cannot but regret the omission of some views of discovered coasts, which exhibit an amazing wildness and peculiar appearance of the country.

Twenty-seven engravers were employed about these splendid plates; who, in general, have fulfilled every expectation that might be formed from English artists, now, undoubtedly, the first in the world. The greatest number of plates were engraved by Sharp; many by Middiman and Hall, in conjunction; some, with considerable elegance, by Sherwin. Woollett and Bartolozzi (perhaps prevented by prior engagements) furnished but one plate each. Bartolozzi, excellent as he is, will always be considered as an improper person for performances of this kind, until he can occasionally forget his Grecian ideas: these too have destroyed the *costume* of two of Sherwin's plates.—Fidelity, in such subjects, is superior to every other excellence. The intention of having plates is to give a more lively, as well as a more *just*, representation of the appearance of a country and race of people, so distant and distinct from our own: no one, in this instance, wishes to know how well the artists have studied the antique.

Though truth has extorted the above remarks, we recommend the whole set of prints as, without comparison, the best of their kind which has ever appeared.

[To be continued.]

Medical

Medical Observations and Inquiries. By a Society of Physicians in London. Vol. VI. 8vo. 6s. in Boards. Cadell.

THE first apology for every collection is generally occasioned by delay: it may be sometimes unavoidable; but is often owing to causes very different from those which are alleged. The deaths of doctors Fothergill, Solander, and Hunter will, on several accounts, be very generally regretted; and by these events, the present publication is said to have been retarded*. A short but affectionate tribute to the memories of these respectable physicians, forms a part of the Introduction; in the subsequent part, we are told that the rheum palmarum, raised in this kingdom, as a cathartic, is found to be but little, if at all, inferior to the foreign.

The first Article contains a Case of Extravasation of Blood into the pericardium.—It was in consequence of lifting some heavy burthens, and not immediately fatal. The blood was effused into the sac from a rupture of the vena cava, close by the right auricle. The connection of the event with the cause is easily explained; and the symptoms are such as might be expected from the accident.

The second Article contains a History of an Angina Pectoris, successfully treated by Dr. David Macbride.—This case was the subject of conversation about seven years since, when the attention of physicians was much attracted by the disease. We believe it has been often mistaken, and many other diseases of the thorax invested with this formidable title. The present instance is however very clearly the angina pectoris, and the remedy was a mixture of aq. calcis mag. comp. a little of the aq. junip comp. and a small proportion of Huxham's antimonial wine. The diet was plain, light, and perspirable; and a large issue was opened in each thigh. The same method has been since pursued by other practitioners with various success. In no instance has the cure been so complete as in the present; and sometimes the relief has been very inconsiderable.

III. Two Cases of Dropsy successfully treated by moderate Doses of Opium; from Mr. John Mason, Surgeon at Leicester.—In these instances opium proved apparently diuretic, but there is no medicine which does not in some cases seem to have that effect; and there is at the same time no discharge so often

* The fifth volume was published in 1776, and reviewed in our Journal, Vol. xlii. pages 352 and 430.

produced by nature, and so little under the influence of art. People subject to great and constant cold and moisture, are often affected by dropsies, merely from the suppression of perspiration. In such cases, opium is often very successful; but we have never found it diuretic.

IV. Case of an Aneurism in the Aorta, and in the left carotid Artery, which burst into the Trachea. By John Hall, of Broadstreet, Surgeon; late Surgeon to the Leicester Infirmary.—This Case is explained in the title; we can only add, that the aneurism of the aorta pressed on the trachea, so that at times blood leaked into it, and was brought up with the mucus. The termination, as may be expected, was sudden.

V. The Case of Mr. Holder, by Mr. Richard Brown Cheston, Surgeon, at Gloucester.—Mr. Holder was affected with a polypus in each ventricle of the heart; but, though this be as much as we can say on the subject, yet we would recommend this article to the attention of our readers. The description is clear and accurate; and, in many parts of it, we can distinctly perceive the connection with the subsequent appearances. Had the increase of the polypus been checked early, and the death sudden, this too would have been considered as a case of angina pectoris.

VI. A successful Treatment of a supposed Hydrocephalus Internus, by Dr. Matthew Dobson.—Dr. Dobson deserves the greatest commendations for first recommending an useful remedy in a desperate disease. The modesty of the title is an additional merit; for the complaint could in no instance be more strongly marked. The method of treatment is to raise a gentle salivation by mercurials. We shall not enlarge on this subject, because the remedy was not partially concealed, but very soon published in the Medical Commentaries for the year 1778, first by Dr. Percival, from the information of Dr. Dobson, and from his own experience subsequent to it. In 1779, Dr. Dobson published the present Case in the same work; so that the method is very generally known. It met with a slight opposition from Dr. Simmons, who, with much reason, attributed the cure, in Dr. Percival's case, to the blisters. Indeed it is not easy, in the diseases commonly described by this gentleman, to find the remedy which is really useful, among the crowd of others. But subsequent trials have confirmed Dr. Dobson's opinion; for though mercurials sometimes fail, they are often highly serviceable.

In the following article, Dr. Hunter adduces another case in support of Dr. Dobson's method; and, since that period, many others have been published.

Article VIII Apparent Effects of Mercury in Cases that were supposed Hydrocephalous. By Dr. Haygarth.—Dr. Haygarth seems to have been the first person who thought of this remedy; and the first also who used it. His case occurred January 9th, 1775, and Dr. Dobson's Feb. 15th, of the same year. We suspect Dr. Dobson to have been the 'ingenious medical friend,' whose conversation 'emboldened' him to try the calomel; at least, we think that the praise may be fairly divided. The first case in this article is not so decidedly hydrocephalous as that of Dr. Dobson; but is probably of the same kind. We have ourselves seen water in the ventricles of a patient of eighteen; Dr. Haygarth's was no more than twenty-five years old: in the first and last instances, the mercury produced no salivation.

IX. Remarks on the Cure of the Epilepsy, to which are added, some Considerations on the Practice of Bleeding in Apoplexies. By John Fothergill, M.D. F.R.S.—In this paper Dr. Fothergill seems to recommend, with great anxiety, the means of obviating plethora, in the cure of epilepsies: even the usual nervous medicines, he thinks, may sometimes operate by diminishing appetite. He mentions too the good effects of filings of tin, given in the quantity of an ounce every day for five or six days, which are then to be followed by a cathartic. The indiscriminate practice of bleeding in apoplexies, Dr. Fothergill thinks is frequently injurious; if it relieves the fit, it establishes an incurable hemiplegia. The method which he prefers is to give active vomits; or, if nothing can be swallowed, irritating clysters immediately, with stimulating cataplasms to the feet. We own that his reasons are generally satisfactory; yet perhaps our first object ought to be to prevent the fatal consequence of the first fit, and the operation of bleeding is more sudden in its effect than any other remedy. There are causes however which act in a very different way from those which accumulate blood in the head; and, in cases of this kind, bleeding must be injurious. The great and deserved reputation of this author will, we hope, induce practitioners to be more generally attentive to causes of apoplexy, and less general in their remedies. Turning the head backward, and continuing it in that posture any time, obstructs the blood in the jugular veins; and, in apoplectic habits, is a frequent cause of a fit. This Article is in many respects important, and merits very considerable attention; but we were surprised to find some very important remedies omitted.

X. An Encysted Watery Tumour, adhering to the posterior Part of the Bladder, and to the whole Length of the Rectum,

which brought on a fatal Suppression of Urine. By Thomas Gery Cullum, Surgeon, St. Edmund's Bury, Suffolk, and Member of the Corporation of Surgeons in London.—[This paper 'may be of some use to determine whether a tumour, felt in the *rectum*, is the *bladder* or an *encysted tumour* adhering to it.' But we know little of the origin of the cyst, or its nature.]

XI. Remarks on that Complaint commonly known under the Name of the Sick Head-ach. By John Fothergill, M. D.—This too is an Article of great importance. We ought particularly to value the last exertions of a respectable author and benevolent man. The complaint is familiar to studious and sedentary persons; it is sometimes owing to the indigested relics of a former meal, and sometimes to the stimulus of bile itself. An emetic, a laxative, and an anodyne, or sometimes either of the former, are sufficient for a temporary cure; but the cause lies deeper, and leads our author into important and useful reflections on diet. On this subject we shall extract, rather than analyse; and, though we shall select what seems most valuable, yet we would refer our readers also to the paper itself.

'One of the first articles of diet I shall mention is bread; and that only to say, that to digest it properly, if taken in considerable quantities, very strong organs are requisite. The husbandman and labourer find no difficulties in this respect; but to many others this is not the case. In weak stomachs, a large proportion of bread is indigestible; it turns sour, produces the heartburn, flatulencies, and interrupts the perfect concoction of every thing else. This is not owing to any supposed adulteration in common; nor do I believe bread is adulterated to such a degree as many apprehend; but to its own nature, which requires organs of a certain strength, to assimilate it properly; and if not so assimilated, it happens, as in many other cases, the corruption of what is good, makes it the worst of all others.

'On this principle, I have endeavoured to inculcate the necessity of paying much attention to this capital article of diet, to valitudinaries in general; never to abstain from it wholly, but to use it with moderation; to consider it as one of those things which, sparingly used, was extremely necessary and beneficial; if otherwise, the fruitful source of many complaints, which were little suspected to arise from this cause.

'In this country, animal food of one kind or another, constitutes the chief part of our nourishment. That there are some kinds of more easy, some of harder, digestion than others, is well known to every body. Yet I am inclined to think, there is scarcely any part of animal diet in use, that would not occasionally be made to agree, that is, to be digested without much

much difficulty, if we were full as anxious in respect to excess of quantity, as the unsuitableness of the kind; at least this opinion corresponds with my own observation and experience. If a person eats as much of ham, salted beef, or bacon, as he ought to do of fish or of chicken, he may suffer by it.

The article of puddings, on an English table, is an affair of consequence. After a plentiful dinner of animal food, rich sweet puddings, deserts, or even fruit, seem a very unnatural and improper addition; more especially if the puddings are baked: for a little butter, long exposed to the heat of an oven, becomes, oftentimes, a cause of much suffering.

Of vegetables it will be necessary to say something. The rule in general is, to appeal to what best agrees, in this respect, with each particular constitution. I have only one short caution to give on this head. — Those who think it necessary to pay any attention to their health at table, should take care that the quantity of bread, and of meat, and of puddings, and of greens, should not compose each of them a meal, as if some were only thrown in to make weight; but carefully to observe, that the sum of all together do not exceed due bounds, or in-croach upon the first feelings of satiety.

In respect to fruit, I apprehend it is a most injurious practice to eat it, as is generally done, after a plentiful meal. There are some people who may be happy enough not to feel themselves incommoded by any quantity they can take; but this is not the case with the generality, to whom I appeal for the proof of this assertion.

Fruit was given us for use, as well as pleasure; to contribute to our health, not to hurt. The forenoon seems, of all others, the most suitable season, unless it is taken instead of a meal. This I believe is the custom in many parts of the world, and seems most consistent with health and right reason. This, and another custom which I believe prevails in France, I should be glad to see introduced into England more generally; for some families have long been in the practice of it; which is, to drink what may be necessary, what health or inclination requires, during the repast, and then to dismiss the bottle entirely.

It might seem not improper, in this place, to mention my opinion of the different kinds of liquors, respecting their comparative advantages; but this might likewise demand a volume: It must be left at last to the experience of the individual.

The lesser quantity of fermented liquors we accustom ourselves to, the better.

To abstain from spirits of every kind, however diluted, as much as may be.

Where mild, well-brewed beer agrees, to keep to it as beverage.

Where

‘ Where water does not disagree, to value the privilege, and continue it.

‘ In respect to wine, custom, for the most part, will decide. The less the excess in quantity, the more consistent with health and long life.

‘ Punch is a favourite with many;—if weak, in hot bilious constitutions, when naturally so, or which become such by a long residence in warm climates, it seems not to be an unwholesome composition. Like what has been said of diet in general, so likewise it may be added in respect to liquors: it is the quantity, in common, that does more harm than the kind; and people, especially in the fore-part of life, cannot be too solicitous to shun the first temptations to the love of spirituous liquors.

‘ There is another repast which, since the introduction of tea, is become a kind of necessary of life, and as much expected in every family as the other usual meals themselves. It may not, perhaps, be wholly improper to suggest some considerations respecting the use of tea and coffee after dinner. If we may judge from various circumstances, from the time of dinner, digestion is performing during the course of several hours. This operation requires labour and time in performing it, more or less, in proportion to the quantity of food taken in, and the powers of digestion. Much food, taken into a weak stomach, requires a greater length of time, if it is digested at all, than where less has been received.

‘ Whilst that power, which we call nature, is performing this task, a second is added, which, though of a lighter quality, adds to the quantity, and as it must be assimilated to the chyle now forming, is an additional burthen. To the robust, this may appear trifling, it is not felt. But to those who may be said to be barely not valetudinary, it is a matter of some consequence.

‘ It is thought by many, that tea assists digestion, by the additional stimulus of its quantity; it may excite the stomach and duodenum to pass the digesting food sooner than they otherwise would have done, and sooner than the chyle is properly elaborated;—it may perhaps assist in carrying off flatulency, and the food together. This, at least, is my opinion of it; and I therefore think the subjects of whom I have been speaking, ought to drink either tea or coffee, with great moderation; never to make it sweet, coffee especially; and to eat with it as seldom as possible. For either sweet cakes, cakes of any kind, or butter in any proportion, rather retard digestion than promote it. The only proper time to drink either tea or coffee, or any such beverage, with safety or advantage, is to take it as soon after dinner as possible, and instead of sitting down to the bottle. This is one of those customs, which perhaps might be adopted by us with fewer disadvantages than many of the fashions we receive from our neighbours. As on the due performance

formance of digestion depends much of our health, ease, and prospect of longevity; so we ought most studiously to avoid every thing that has a probable chance of interrupting it.

XII. Case of a Spasmodic Inability of Deglutition, caused by Mercurial Uction. By J. H. Sequira, M. D.—The spasm which is here described, was the consequence of a convulsive cough, for which mercury has been often employed. Its success was decided and complete.

XIII. The Use of Cold-bathing in the Locked Jaw, &c. By William Wright, M. D. F. R. S.—The cold bath in these instances, seems to have been very successful; but it ought to be remarked, that it was in the disease of warm climates. We know that it is not equally useful in this country; and would warn our readers not to expect too much from it. In the locked jaw, from wounds, we want more active remedies; and, by trusting to cold-bathing, might lose an opportunity which never can be regained. We are glad to find that the inhabitants of Jamaica do not neglect their own species of the chincona.

XIV. Case of a singular Cough. By Archibald Douglas, M. D. of London.—This cough was of the convulsive kind, seeming to arise from an irritation on the left side of the throat. It resisted every remedy, though slightly benefited by bark and hemlock: at last it was found that smelling to a large quantity of eau de lace, at once checked it. Volatiles internally were of no service; and less than two ounces of eau de luce had little effect. It is remarkable that, though blisters were applied behind the ears, there was never any constant drain from the part itself, nor any application to the origin of the nerves.

XV. Incontinence of Urine, cured by the Use of the flexible Catheter. By G. Mitchell, Surgeon at Wapping.—From loss of substance, in consequence of difficult parturition, there was a passage from the urethra, near the orifice, into the vagina. This was healed by the constant use of a flexible catheter. The case is well adapted to the use of the instrument recommended; but we fear the flexible catheter cannot be extended to those cases where the loss of substance is in the bladder. Our author however seems to recommend it, on the authority of Dr. Dickson, in the Postscript; but a very proper note is added by a member of the society. This gentleman observes, that when the catheter is intended constantly to drain off the water, its extremity will stimulate the bladder, and bring on irresistible efforts, so as to drive the instrument into the urethra. This effect we have ourselves observed; and

the possibility, or even probability, is evinced from a fact recorded in this volume, p. 96, in the account of the encysted tumour, Art. X: where the urine was drawn off by a trocar above the pubes: though the canula was not more than an inch and quarter long, yet the bladder was slightly abraded by its extremity.

XVI. A Letter to Dr. John Fothergill, on the Benefit of a resuscitated Salivation, in the Cure of certain anomalous Symptoms, from Dr. Matthew Dobson.—This patient was affected by a train of anomalous ‘mercurial symptoms, occasioned by the sudden suppression of salivation,’ and was cured in the manner mentioned in the title. The fact contains nothing very new, but the symptoms are peculiar, and very different from those which usually arise from the same cause.

XVII. The History of an extraordinary Affection of the Brain, in a Letter to Dr. W. Hunter; from Dr. John Smith, Dr. Martin Wall, and Mr. John Langford, Surgeon.—The affection of the brain, though not singular, is in many respects worthy attention. It seemed to originate from a blow on the head, which always left a soreness on that part, and the hair there was thin. About the period of his death he was affected with complaints of his head and bowels, a temporary stupor, and at last a fever, with a rambling delirium. The brain was found inflamed, the ventricles full of a bloody serum, and the dura and pia mater preternaturally adhered to each other by means of a piece of bone, ‘broader than a sixpence, and thicker than a shilling.’

XVIII. Observations on the Cure of Fluxes, by small Doses of Ipecacuanha. By Dr. J. Fothergill, M.D.—The remedy is now very generally known; but the method of using it, recommended by Dr. Fothergill, is very advantageous. Ipecacuanha, in a small dose, just so much as barely to bring on vomiting, or rather within it, is to be given in the morning, and a warm cordial anodyne at night. The diet must not exceed in quantity; and, if any tonic is joined with it, the dose should be properly adapted to the irritable state of the bowels.

XIX. The Case of a flatulent Tumour on the Head, opened and cured. By Mr. Lloyd, Surgeon, Wrexham.—

‘The things themselves are neither new nor rare;
We wonder how the devil they got there.’

In fact the appearance of air, independent of previous sup-
puration, is unaccountable, except in the intestines. The
only cause was a fall many years before; but, in the early
state, there was certainly a communication with, probably the
internal

internal parts of, the ear, and the air may have been derived from the Eustachian tube. The tumour produced symptoms of pressure both on the bone and the brain; but the latter symptoms disappeared on the operation, and the caries of the bone was soon healed.

We must defer the farther account of this Volume to another opportunity.

More Ways than One, a Comedy, as acted at the Theatre Royal in Covent Garden. By Mrs. Cowley. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Evans.

MRS. Cowley's prolific Muse has produced another offspring, which possesses so strongly the likeness of the family, that we need not be prolix in our description of it. There are indeed more ways than one of obtaining a wife; but these ways have been often repeated on the stage. To represent a young man, who pretends that he is almost exhausted by disease, in order to obtain admission to a lady, the niece of a physician, may appear extravagant; yet a similar plan, of Horner in the *Country Wife*, was much more so; and the lady, in both instances, possesses only artless innocence and tender sensibility. If the story however is not new, Mrs. Cowley has conducted it with greater address, and has not debased it with the licentious language of her predecessor. The following scene is drawn wholly from the heart: we shall therefore insert it.

Arabella. No, that won't do [*taking up a slip of paper*]—Yes it will—no! it is not half so soft and pretty. [*re-touches it*] There now! that little touch at the corner of the mouth has made it clear another thing. Oh, how happy those ladies are that can draw!—if I could draw, I'd make his sweet face so white; and his eye should be just lifted up to me, as it is sometimes; and between his lips I would see a little bit of his white teeth, and—

Enter Freelove.

Freelove. Heyday! what is she about! [*peeping*] What now! *Arabella!* writing?

Arab. Oh, no; you know I can't write—I wish I could.

Freelove. With you could! why? to enlarge your sphere of mischief? pity there's a goose-quill in the kingdom, except those in the hands of the faculty, the clergy, and the law;—though, as to the law, I believe there would be no great harm if their's were taken away too. But what use, pray, would you make of a pen?

Arab. Oh, I'd write—I'd write down a song that I have been making out of my own head, but I can't finish it, because I can't write. It begins—

Soft

Soft are my gentle Jockey's looks,
And lily pale his face.—

Freelove. "Lily pale his face."—Aye, that most young men can boast of—rosy cheeks are as scarce now in England, as rose bushes in Scotland. Let me see that paper—what's this? a flower pot?

Arab. No, it's Jockey. [*very artlessly.*]

Freelove. Jockey! why thou hast a good pretty notion, girl, enough!—some fancy there—it might take a man a good while to explain it. But come [*throwing down the paper, which she picks up, and puts in her bosom.*] I want to talk to you a little. Here will be the poor young man presently—Mr. Bellair.

Arab. Oh dear, will he? [*joyfully*]

Freelove. Now you know he's dying.

Arab. Is he? [*sadly.*]

Freelove. Therefore we must make hay while the sun shines.

Arab. The sun won't shine, when he dies. [*aside.*]

Freelove. He has a good fortune, and neither chick nor child. He must leave it to somebody you know, and most likely it will be to those who are most kind to him; now I would have you shew every kind of decent civility to him, that a modest young woman may shew.

Arab. I am sure I always do. I would lay down my life to bate his pains; sometimes they are very bad, and then he grasps my hand so hard?—but I am not angry with him.

Freelove. No, to be sure; he is sick, poor man—if he was well 'twould be quite another thing—never let a man in health press your hand. But, as I was saying, I have no doubt but his gratitude will secure us some acknowledgement at his death.

Arab. Oh, dear uncle! you had better secure an acknowledgement for saving his life.

Freelove. Yes, but when people's lives are saved, they seldom think of an acknowledgement;—if you can get into a sick man's will, 'tis safer to let him go.

Enter Servant.

Serv. Mr. Bellair is coming up, Sir.

Freelove. Oh, let me assist him. [*runs out.*] Stay, good sir!

Arab. Dear, dear, how weak he is! [*looking through the wing.*] But I declare he is not so pale—no not half so pale as he was. Oh! how I should love my uncle if he would recover him—I'd give all I have in the world!

Again, when Mr. Bellair retires.

Arab. Dear, how he looks at me! it thrills my bosom through and through! Sure he can have no very great crime on his mind—I am sure he never can have been wicked—I'll endeavour to comfort him when he comes again. Meantime, I'll go into my own room, and try to finish this [*taking the paper*]

paper from her bosom.] I think I can make it look a little as he did just now,—and then—then, if he dies—[*dropping a tear.*] I can look at this, and think of him!

There is a second plot, the tendency of which is equally to shew the exhaustless resources of ingenuity, when in pursuit of a favourite object.—Though the plots are conducted with ingenuity and art; and though the dialogue is, as usual, lively and entertaining, we own that we are not so much interested in this play as in the former ones of our author. There are no characters, except perhaps the amiable and innocent Arabella, for whom we are solicitous; and the intrigue and levity, which are the chief characteristics of Bellair, by no means convince us that the denouement is peculiarly fortunate; nor is the mind left in that security and confidence, which are the usual effects of a happy termination. The character of Free love is neither drawn with propriety or consistency. It is painful to behold vice where we look for humanity; or to reflect that our most helpless situations may be betrayed by selfishness or insensibility.

The Prologue and Epilogue are spirited and entertaining: the latter is happy in many of its allusions.—Mrs. Cowley's play is dedicated to her husband, who is now in India; in it, she ingeniously apologizes for the indulgence of 'quips and cranks,' while her heart is chilled by his absence.

Louisa, a Poetical Novel, in Four Epistles. By Miss Seward.
4to. 3s. 6d. Robinson.

MISS Seward's poetical abilities have been already rated very highly; and the present performance, though its constituent parts are by no means of equal merit, will not diminish the credit she has so justly acquired. The story conveyed in these epistles is neither intricate nor marvellous: not calculated to gratify curiosity, by the relation of a variety of incidents and strange turns of fortune, but to amuse the fancy by a rich display of poetical scenery, and excite the feelings of the tender and generous mind. Its principal outlines are as follow: Louisa and Eugenio having plighted their mutual vows, he leaves her to visit his father, and engage in some commercial pursuits: within a short time he discontinues his correspondence with her; and she at length finds an account in the public papers of his marriage with a lady of elevated rank and ample fortune. This, with a pathetic display of her sensations on the occasion, and some fine picturesque descriptions,

scriptions, constitutes the first Epistle, written by Louisa to Emma, her intimate friend, then resident in the East Indies. The second letter is addressed to the same person by Eugenio. We are to suppose two years to have elapsed from the time he forsook Louisa, and Emma returned to her native country. We here find, however culpable his conduct must have appeared, that he had acted on the noblest principles, and sacrificed his own happiness to preserve his father, entangled in commercial engagements, from indigence and misery. The scene in which Ernesto intreats his son with such tenderness and delicacy, to preserve his family from ruin, and the struggle in Eugenio's mind, is extremely affecting. Its length alone prevents our laying it before the reader. He mentions his having rescued a lady of quality (Emira) from ruffians, her having conceived a violent passion for him, and on that account discharging his father's debts. He assigns many reasons why in point of honour he was obliged to marry the benefactress of his family; and others, not so just possibly as convenient for heightening the pathos, why he had concealed from Louisa the principles on which he acted, in hopes that resentment of his ungenerous neglect and falshood would eradicate all tender sensations for him, and convert her love to contempt and indifference. He expresses his expectation of speedy death, and leaves it to Emma's discretion, after that event should have taken place, whether Louisa ought to be informed, or kept in ignorance, of the motives on which he had acted.

This intelligence, as we may suppose, is immediately communicated to Louisa; and, in the third Epistle to the same friend, she expresses her joy on finding that Eugenio had acted with honour; that the cruel situation of his affairs, not his inclination, had obliged him to forsake a mistress to whom his heart was always constant. Though this Epistle contains several beautiful descriptions, we think it by far the least interesting or natural. We apprehend it would have been more consistent with probability, if her joy at discovering Eugenio's innocence had been occasionally interrupted with apprehensions of his death, and pity of his situation. Neither do we approve the episode of Clairmont. A mind highly agitated, is too much absorbed in its own feelings to reflect much upon, or coolly delineate, the transactions of another. We acknowledge the fair author has defended, with great ingenuity, the passages to which we have objected. But we almost doubt, from that very vindication, whether she did not rather wish to convince others, than was thoroughly convinced

Miss Seward's Louisa.

vinced herself of their propriety. The fourth is in continuation; she informs her friend that Ernesto had personally requested her to accompany him on a mournful visit to Emira, who having led a life of dissipation and folly, was attacked by a violent fever which threatened a speedy dissolution: that, conscious of her past guilt, and truly repentant, she earnestly implored her's and her husband's forgiveness. Louisa describes their interview, and the death of Emira, in a most affecting manner; and concludes the Epistle with an invitation to her friend to participate in her happiness.

The rude sketch we have given will convey very little idea of the many beauties contained in this poem, which are so numerous we scarcely know where to begin our selection. In description, Miss Seward is peculiarly happy. Thomson could not have delineated a more picturesque scene than that in which Louisa describes herself as sitting at noon-day on a shady bank.

Beneath my trembling fingers lightly rung
The lute's sweet chords, responsive while I sung.
Faint in the yellow broom the oxen lay,
And the mute birds sat languid on the spray;
And nought was heard around the noon-tide how'r,
Save, that the mountain bee, from flow'r to flow'r,
Seem'd to prolong, with her assiduous wing,
The soft vibration of the tuneful string;
While the fierce skies flam'd on the shrinking rills,
And sultry silence brooded o'er the hills!

The two last lines are remarkably bold and energetic: they are conceived much after the manner of Ossian, whom we can trace in two or three other beautiful passages, particularly the following.

'Twas here,—e'en here!—where now I sit reclia'd,
And winter's sighs sound hollow in the wind;
Loud, and more loud the blast of evening raves,
And strips the oaks of their last, ling'ring leaves;
The edying foliage in the tempest flies,
And fills, with duskier gloom, the thick'ning skies.
Red sinks the sun, behind the howling hill,
And rushes, with hoarse stream, the mountain rill,
And now, with ruffling billow, cold and pale,
Runs, swain, and dashing, down the lonely vale;
While, to these tear full eyes, Grief's faded form,
Sits on the cloud, and sighs amid the storm!

The reader must be insensible, who is not struck with the luxuriant and feeling account our fair authoress has given, of the Halcyon days of courtship.

• These

' These are the days that fly on Rapture's wing,
 Empurpling every flow'r that decks the spring ;
 For when love-kindling Hope, with whisper bland,
 Wakes the dear magic of her potent wand,
 More vivid colours paint the rising morn,
 And clearer crystal gems the silver thorn ;
 On more luxuriant shade the noon-beam plays,
 And richer gold the evening-sun arrays ;
 Stars seem to glitter with enamour'd fire,
 And shadowy hills in statelier grace aspire ;
 More subtle sweetness scents the passing gales,
 And softer beauty decks the moon-light vales ;
 All nature smiles ! nor e'en the jocund day,
 When festal roses strew the bridal way,
 Darts thro' the virgin breast such keen delight,
 As when soft fears with gay belief unite ;
 As Hope, sweet, warm, seducing Hope inspires,
 Which somewhat questions, what it most desires ;
 Reads latent meaning in a lover's eye,
 Thrills at his glance, and trembles at his sigh ;
 As o'er the frame disordered transport pours,
 When only less than certainty is ours.

We cannot resist the temptation of transcribing Eugenio's description of an autumnal evening, pourtrayed in the sweetest and softest colouring.

' Loit'ring I listen to the red-breast clear,
 The last, lone songster of the waning year.
 Light o'er the leaves sweet Autumn breathes serene,
 And tips with gold their yet unfaded green.
 Now many a vapour blue the stream exhales,
 And twilight steals unheeded on the vales.
 O'er the hill-top the lines of crimson run,
 The glowing raiments of the vanish'd sun.
 Nor yet the deep'ning shades of night impede
 My roving course, which pensive musings lead,
 What time the moon of Ceres mildly throws
 Her shadowy grace, and breathes her *soft repose*
 O'er the dark shrubs, that clothe the rocky steep,
 Shelve from their tops, and fringe the crystal deeps ;
 While, as around those rocks the river glides,
 White moon-beams tremble in the glancing rides.

The expression marked in *Italics* is bold, but certainly allowable : we feel its force and propriety ; it gives an idea of tranquillity, perfectly corresponding to the effects the scenery must produce, from which it was originally borrowed by painters. It is not always introduced with equal happiness ; when

With glad reverted glance a *short repos*;
We are struck with its boldness rather than its beauty; and do not see the propriety of its application.

Notwithstanding our high opinion of Miss Seward's present performance, impartiality obliges us to observe that there are some reprehensible passages, which we hope to see altered in a future edition. The gravity of a Reviewer can scarcely refrain from smiling at the following fanciful allusion:

'And on her blooming cheek the tresses bright,
That play'd in wavy wreaths of golden light,
Or on her snowy bosom, shining fell,
Like a warm sun-beam on a lilly's bell.

To describe common occurrences in life with grace and dignity is extremely difficult; and to attempt elevating the familiar, often turns to burlesque what would otherwise, at the worst, be only insipid. Louisa's lines, relative to the letters she had received from Eugenio, strike us in that light.

'And oh! how *warm*, how *bright* those letters *glow'd*,
What *ardent* love in melting language flow'd,
My dearest Emma thou wilt ne'er explore;
The *brilliant talismans* are mine no more!
Pride, virgin-pride pronounc'd the stern behest,
And tore the *faithless Scriptures* from my breast!

Was there occasion for all this pomp of words, to inform Emma that she had destroyed them? Where Eugenio describes his preserving Emira from ruffians, we meet with one or two similar instances; the following lines also convey a very incongruous idea.

'On fibrous oaks, that roughen all the ground,
My steed's fleet hoofs, with hollow noise resound;
And doubled by the echoes from the caves,
Appal a guilty band of desp'rate slaves.'

Mason somewhere says, if we recollect right, 'The fleet hoof rattles o'er the flinty way,' which is extremely proper; but how so loud an echo as to frighten people should be produced by a horse's galloping over the roots of trees, cannot be well imagined. We recommend the whole passage which relates that adventure to Miss Seward's revival. Some few other defects might be pointed out, but they are either too minute for censure, or so obvious, that we doubt not to find them expunged in a second edition; which must soon be the case, if works of genius any longer excite attention.

As a
proof

proof that this lady's talents are no less conspicuous in the pathetic than descriptive, we shall give Louisa's relation of her interview with Emira.

' Shudd'ring we now draw near the house of death,
And find yet stays the intermitting breath.
What agitated dread my bosom tears,
When pausing we ascend the silent stairs!—
As we approach the slowly opening door!—
As my pain'd senses, horror-chill'd, explore
The dim apartment, where the lessen'd light
Gives the pale suff'rer to my fearful sight!
The matchless grace of that consummate frame
Withering beneath the fever's scorching flame,
Outstretch'd and wan, with lab'ring breath she lies,
Closing in palsied lids her quiv'ring eyes.
Eugenio's hand lock'd in her clasping hands,
As hush'd and mournful by her couch he stands!—
Horror and pity mingled traces flung,
Which o'er his form, like wintry shadows, hung;
Yet, on my entrance in that dreary room,
A gleam of joy darts thro' their awful gloom!
Oh! what a moment!—my Eugenio's face!—
Alas!—how faded its once glowing grace!
Past hours of woe on his pale cheek I read,
In eyes whose beams, like waning stars, recede!
' Faintly the sound of that known voice I hear,
"Oh my Louisa!" scarce it meets my ear,
Lest the imperfect slumber should be found
Chas'd by the check'd involuntary sound.
But clear the senses of the dying seem,
Like the expiring taper's flashing beam.
Scarce audibly tho' breath'd, Louisa's name
Emira hears, and her enfeebled frame,
With sudden pow'rless effort, strives to raise;
But, sinking back, her eyes, in eager gaze
Are fix'd on mine,—what anguish in their beams!
O! conscious guilt, how dreadful thy extremes!
The chill numb hands, whence deadly dews had broke,
Snatch'd from her lord's, when starting she awoke,
Now, as they seem unable to extend,
Softly I take, as o'er her couch I bend;
She turns away, oppress'd by thought severe,
And steeps her pillow in the bitter tear."

We could proceed with pleasure, as what follows is not inferior to that already quoted; but we will no farther anticipate the satisfaction every reader of taste and sensibility must receive from the perusal of the poem itself.

The present State of the Ottoman Empire. Translated from the French Manuscript of Elias Habesci, many Years resident at Constantinople, in the Service of the Grand Signor. 8vo. 6s. in Boards. Baldwin.

VARIOUS causes have concurred to render an acquaintance with the manners and customs of the Turks a difficult attainment to the natives of any other country. The diversity both of their language and religion, the general reserve in the character of mussulmen, the exclusion of the women from the social intercourse of life, and the peculiar jealousy of the government; all these circumstances strongly operate towards baffling the efforts of a stranger, however inquisitive in the search of information. The productions of literature which, in almost every other nation of Europe, afford no inconsiderable means for discovering the sentiments and genius of the people, have also hitherto been an object of the severest prohibition amongst the Turks. Amidst so many obstacles to an intimate acquaintance with Turkey, there was still sufficient room for an account of that empire, executed by a person who had good opportunities of information; and as such we regard the present author. Mr. Habesci informs us, in the preface, that he is by birth a Greek; and was carried, when an infant, to Constantinople, where he was brought up by an uncle, who enjoyed an office of honour and trust in the seraglio. That by assisting his relation in the functions of that department, and afterwards by acting as secretary to a grand vizir in the reign of the late sultan, he had opportunities of acquiring a perfect knowledge of many particulars, which no traveller, however well recommended, nor any foreign ambassador at the Porte, had access to obtain.

Mr. Habesci, besides an intimate acquaintance with the Turkish capital, claims the additional advantage of having visited every city under the Ottoman government in Asia, and almost every one in Europe; so that he is qualified to speak with certainty of the actual state of the Turkish dominions. Admitting all these assertions upon his own authority, Mr. Habesci is likely to give more certain, if not more impartial observations respecting Turkey, than has before been communicated by other writers.

In the first chapter of the work, the author delivers an abstract of the Turkish history, from the origin of the empire to the present time. He next gives an account of the religion of the Turks, their different ablutions, the pilgrimage to Mecca, the festival of the Beyram, their marriages and morals, and the several religious sects and orders. He con-

firm the testimony of other writers, who have observed that atheism has greatly prevailed in Turkey of late years; and to this degeneracy of the popular religion he ascribes the declension of the Ottoman power.

The author observes, that it is very difficult to form a just idea of the Ottoman empire, without a previous knowledge of what is meant by the seraglio and the Porte; for the establishment of both has so intimate a connection with the civil and military government, that it is absolutely necessary to understand them thoroughly, to be able to comprehend the Turkish system of policy. When they speak of the seraglio, they do not mean the apartments in which the grand signor's women are confined, as is commonly imagined, but the whole inclosure of the Ottoman palace, which might well suffice for a moderate town. The wall which surrounds the seraglio is thirty feet high, having battlements, embrasures, and towers, in the style of ancient fortifications. There are in it nine gates, but only two of them magnificent; and from one of these the Ottoman court takes the name of the Porte, or the Sublime Porte, in all public transactions and records.

We are informed, that the horses appropriated to the use of the monarch, and which no other person must mount, are in number three thousand, which can neither be augmented nor diminished.

All the pages of the seraglio are the sons of Christians, made slaves in time of war at an early age; but the incursions of Turkish robbers in the neighbourhood of Circassia, and other Christian countries, afford the means of supplying the seraglio with such children, even in times of peace. During some years, however, the brave prince Heraclius has put a stop to these depredations, and abolished the infamous tribute of children of both sexes, which Georgia formerly paid every year to the Porte.

We shall lay before our readers the author's account of the apartments of the women, their education, &c. not merely for the sake of entertainment, but as correcting an erroneous notion relative to a custom in the seraglio.

All the women that are in the seraglio are for the service of the grand signor. No person whatsoever is permitted to introduce themselves into the first gate that encompasses the harem, that is to say, the apartment in which the women are shut up. It is situated in a very remote part of the inclosure of the seraglio, and it looks upon the sea of Marmora. No person can possibly see these women, except the sultan and the eunuchs. When any one of them goes out of the seraglio, to make an excursion into the country with the grand signor, the journey

journey is performed either in a boat, or in a carriage closely shut up; and a kind of covered way is made with linen curtains from the door of their apartment to the place of embarking, or getting into the carriage. All these women have the same origin as the pages; and the same means which they employ to procure the boy slaves are likewise put in practice to supply the harem with women: the handsomest, and those who give hopes of being such, are brought to the seraglio, and they must all be virgins. They are divided like the pages into two chambers, and their manual employment consists in learning to sew and to embroider. But with respect to the cultivation of the mind, they are only taught music, dancing, and gestures, and other things, which modesty forbids me to mention; it is by these allurements that they endeavour to merit the inclination of the grand signor. The number of women in the harem depends on the taste of the reigning monarch. Sultan Selim had nearly 2000; Sultan Machmut had but 300; and the present sultan has pretty near 1600. The two chambers have windows, but they only look upon the gardens of the seraglio, where no body can pass. Amongst so great a number, there is not one servant: for they are obliged to wait upon one another by order of rotation, the last that is entered serves her who entered before her, and herself; so that the first who entered is served without serving; and the last serves without being served. They all sleep in separate beds, and between every fifth there is a preceptress, who minutely inspects their conduct. Their chief governess is called Katon Kiaja, that is to say, the governess of the noble young ladies. When there is a sultaness mother, she forms her court from their chamber, having the liberty to take as many young ladies as she pleases, and such as she likes best.

The grand signor very often permits the women to walk in the gardens of the seraglio. Upon such occasions they order all people to retire; and on every side there is a guard of black eunuchs, with sabres in their hands, while others go their rounds in order to hinder any person from seeing them. If unfortunately any one is found in the garden, even through ignorance or inadvertence, he is undoubtedly killed, and his head brought to the feet of the grand signor, who gives a great reward to the guard for their vigilance. Sometimes the grand signor passes into the gardens to amuse himself, when the women are there: and it is then that they make use of their utmost efforts, by dancing, singing, seducing gestures, and amorous blandishments, to ensnare the affections of the monarch.

It is commonly believed that the grand signor may take to his bed all the women of his seraglio he has an inclination for, and when he pleases, but this is a vulgar error; it was the custom in former times, but the excessive expence in presents and bounties to the women who were so favoured by the

grand signors, determined them to institute regulations that have been observed by all the succeeding monarchs, by which the number, time, and etiquette of cohabiting with them is determined. It is very true, that at present, if the monarch pleases, he can break through all these rules, but he carefully avoids it, especially as it may likewise cost the lives of the girls who give particular pleasure to the prince. In the time of sultan Achmet they caused more than 150 women to be poisoned, who by their allurements had inticed the grand signor, at an improper season, to be connected with them. It is not permitted that the monarch should take a virgin to his bed except during the solemn festivals, and on occasion of some extraordinary rejoicings, or the arrival of some good news. Upon such occasions, if the sultan chooses a new companion to his bed, he enters into the apartment of the women, who are ranged in files by the governesses, to whom he speaks, and intimates the person he likes best: the ceremony of the handkerchief, which the grand signor is said to throw to the girl that he elects, is an idle tale, without any foundation. As soon as the grand signor has chosen the girl that he has destined to be partner of his bed, all the others follow her to the bath, washing and perfuming her, and dressing her superbly, conduct her singing, dancing, and rejoicing to the bed-chamber of the grand signor, who is generally, on such an occasion, already in bed. Scarcely has the new elected favourite entered the chamber, introduced by the grand eunuch who is upon guard, than she kneels down, and when the sultan calls her, she creeps into bed to him at the foot of the bed, if the sultan does not order her, by especial grace, to approach by the side: after a certain time, upon a signal given by the sultan, the governess of the girls, with all her suite, enter the apartment, and take her back again, conducting her with the same ceremony to the women's apartments; and if, by good fortune, she becomes pregnant, and is delivered of a boy, she is called *asaki sultaneß*, that is to say, sultaneß mother; for the first son, she has the honour to be crowned, and she has the liberty of forming her court, as before mentioned. Eunuchs are also assigned for her guard, and for her particular service. No other ladies, though delivered of boys, are either crowned, or maintained with such costly distinction as the first: however, they have their service apart, and handsome appointments. After the death of the sultan, the mothers of the male children are shut up in the old seraglio, from whence they can never come out any more, unless any of their sons ascend the throne.

After treating of the seat of the Turkish government, the author gives a detail of the civil administration throughout the empire; proceeding next to the subject of the revenues, the military government, and the marine and military force.

The agha of the janissaries at Constantinople has very extensive authority, and his external splendour nearly equals that

that of the grand signor. He resides in a kind of castle, situated upon a hill about the centre of the city. His guards are very numerous, and there are twenty-four constantly watching in a tower raised above the castle, to observe what passes in the city, and to give immediate notice if a fire should break forth. If they fail in their duty, through want of attention to this particular, they involve their master in disgrace and punishment. The rule in cases of fire is, that if the grand signor arrives at the place where the fire is burning before the grand vizir and the agha of the janissaries, the former of these officers is obliged to pay him a fine of ten thousand gold ducats; and if the agha be the last of arriving, he forfeits five thousand ducats to the sultan, with an equal sum to the grand vizir. For this reason, the guard in the tower, before they cry out fire, give notice of it to the agha, who has always three excellent horses in readiness; as have likewise the grand signor and the vizir; so that it is often, we are told, a complete horse-race to answer a very benevolent purpose.

This author makes several judicious observations on the Turkish policy, some parts of which he censures, and others with justice applauds. He seems indeed to have a strong propensity to remarks of this nature; for he informs us, that he had not been in England three days, before he wrote a long letter to lord North, then first lord of the treasury, on the extravagant folly of continuing a war with the American colonies, *charging him home* with having perverted the judgment of a humane and pious king, and exhorting him to put a speedy end to it. It would seem as if Mr. Habesci was impatient to revenge on the British minister the necessary restraint which his own temper had suffered during a long residence in Turkey. We believe however that his motives were really humane and liberal; and in this confidence, we cannot hesitate to ascribe to him a degree of philanthropy, respecting which he had no example in the author of the Mahometan religion.

We shall conclude our account of this volume with observing that, in subsequent chapters, the author appears to have faithfully delineated the situation of the Turks relative to the different nations of Europe, and to have treated in the same manner of the principal branches of their commerce. With regard to the manners of the Turks, he every where speaks as from personal knowledge; and it is but justice to say, from the entertaining strain of the narrative, that he seems to have no relation to the *affoncés* whom he mentions, the swallowers of opium, who will devour of that drug the enormous quantity of fifteen drachms at a time.

The History of Ayder Ali Khan, Nabob Bahader; or, New Memoirs concerning the East Indies. With Historical Notes. In Two Volumes. Small 8vo. 6s. 4s. Boards. Johnson.

THE nabob, who is the subject of this history, is sufficiently known by fame, for the vigour of his late incursions into the territories of the East India company. His achievements during that period are so essentially connected with the government of the company in India, that, abstracting from the general entertainment afforded by such narratives, the recital of them naturally becomes interesting to a British reader. Various accounts have been published concerning the extraction of this nabob; some representing him as a native of Europe, and others of India, but of obscure birth. According to these memoirs, which appear to be authentic, the latter report is the truth. In 1750, the time when he is first mentioned in the memoirs, he was about twenty-two years of age, and a corporal in the army of Nazerzing, suba of Decan.

An account of the person and private character of an hereditary sovereign is gratifying to curiosity; but the passion is more strongly excited by a narrative concerning such men as have risen to supreme power in a nation, either by extraordinary fortune or abilities. This being particularly the case with Ayder Ali, we cannot refrain from presenting our readers with the following extract:

‘He is about five feet six inches high, and very lusty, though active, and capable of bearing fatigue as well on foot as on horseback. His complexion is very brown, as is that of all Indians who expose themselves to the air and the sun. His features are coarse, his nose small and turned up, his lower lip rather thick; and he wears neither beard nor whiskers, contrary to the custom of the Orientals, especially the Mahometans. His habits, like those of all the natives of India, are of white muslin, with a turban of the same. His robe is fashioned nearly the same as those of the European ladies, which are called à l’Angloise. The body and sleeves fit neatly, and are drawn close by strings; the rest of the robe being ample, and in folds: so that when the Indian great men walk, a page supports their train, from their first stepping off the carpet to their entering into their carriages.

‘In the army, Ayder Ali wears a military habit invented by himself for his generals. It is an uniform composed of a vest of white sattin, with gold flowers, faced with yellow, and attached by cords or strings of the same colour: the drawers are of the same materials; and the boots of yellow velvet. He wears a scarf of white silk about his waist; and, with the military habit, his turban is of a red or aurora colour. When he is on foot, he commonly uses a gold-headed cane; and sometimes on horseback

horseback he wears a sabre, hanging by a belt of velvet embroidered with gold, and fastened over his shoulder by a clasp of gold, enriched with some precious stones.

He never wears jewelry either on his turban or his clothes; and never uses either necklace, ear-pendants, or bracelets. His turban is very long, and flat at top. In this particular he follows the ancient mode; as well as in his slippers, which are very large, and have a long point turned back, resembling the roofs of the buildings in some countries up the Levant; or those slippers anciently worn in France, and called *souliers à la poulaine*. The *petit-maitres* of his and other Indian courts affect to wear little bonnets which scarcely cover the tops of their heads, and slippers so small as scarce to admit the points of their feet: but though in these and other respects their taste is so different from that of Ayder and his son, yet to imitate him as much as possible in the article of beard and whiskers, without infringing the precepts of the Alcoran, they reduce their beard and moustaches to a moustache scarcely discernible.

The countenance of Ayder, though not handsome, is open, and calculated to inspire confidence. He has not acquired the habit of disguising his aspect, which is either gay, or overspread with chagrin, according to the occasions that present themselves. He possesses a facility of conversing on any subject; and has none of that stateliness and taciturnity, which almost all the other princes of the East affect to preserve. When he receives a stranger, he is reserved, and appears to speak with gravity; but soon recovers his usual ease, and converses with all the world, repeating himself the news and common conversation of the day, with the greatest affability. It is most astonishing, that this sovereign asks questions, gives answers, hears a letter read, and dictates an answer to another, beholds a theatrical exhibition, and even seems to attend to the performance,—at the same instant that he decides concerning things of the utmost importance.

There is no sovereign more easy of access to every one that has business with him, whether strangers or subjects; and the former, whatever may be their quality, are always sure to be introduced into his presence, by demanding an audience, by a *souquedar*, or mace-bearer, of which there is always a sufficient number at the gate of his palace. The *fakirs*, a species of begging monks, are alone excluded from this indulgence; but when one of these appears, he is conducted to the *pirjada*, or grand almoner, who supplies his wants. The court of Ayder is, in this point, absolutely different from those of all the other princes of India, who hold these *fakirs* in such high veneration, that they suffer them to enter their palaces at any hour, and even admit them to their table. They have the assurance to take the first place at table, nearest the prince, though they are most commonly disgusting, filthy, and covered with vermin.

‘ When business or parties of pleasure do not prevent Ayder Ali from going to rest at his usual time, which is after midnight, he rises with the sun, that is to say, about six o’clock. As soon as he is risen, the majors of the army, who have been on duty the preceding day and night, and likewise those who relieve them, enter, make their reports, and receive orders to be transmitted to the ministers and generals, who themselves have the privilege of entering his dressing-room, if they have any thing extraordinary or pressing to communicate. The couriers that have arrived during the night, or in the morning, also come and lay their dispatches at his feet. It may be esteemed a weakness in a prince so occupied, that his toilet takes up a considerable part of his time. It lasts commonly two or three hours; and is chiefly taken up by his barbers, who pluck the hairs from his beard.

‘ But justice requires us likewise to observe, that when any military operation requires his attention, the toilet is no more thought of.

‘ Between eight and nine in the morning he quits his apartment, and repairs to a saloon, where a number of secretaries wait for his appearance. Into their hands, according to their respective departments, he puts the letters received; giving them at the same time instructions for the answers. His sons, his relations, and those lords who are honoured with his intimacy, enter; and if it be nine o’clock, they take the usual refreshment. If he has leisure, he appears at a balcony, and receives the salute of his elephants, that are led before him, as well as his horses. His tigers of chase likewise pay him a visit. They are led by hand, and are covered with a mantle of green and gold hanging to the ground, and a bonnet on their head, of cloth embroidered with gold, with which their eyes can be immediately covered, if they should chance to prove mischievous. Ayder himself gives each of them a ball of sweetmeats, which they take very adroitly with their paws, being exceedingly tame. These are the spotted tygers, and their keepers lead them every day into those places where the greatest crowds are: but the grand tiger, or tiger royal, has never been tamed by any attempts yet made.

‘ After the repast, which ends about half after ten, Ayder enters into the hall of audience, or the grand tent, if at the army. He is seated on a sofa beneath a canopy, and very often in some balcony that fronts an open place or court of the palace; and some of his relations sit on each side of him. All persons who have permission or access, of which the number is very great, may come to this audience; and those who have affairs to transact, may either request admittance by means of the souquedars, or put their request into the hands of those officers by whom it is carried to their chief, who is always present, and who places it at the feet of the prince, where it is immediately read and answered.’

The

The court of Ayder is represented as the most brilliant in India. There is every night a comedy, which commences about eight in the morning, and lasts until eleven. It is intermixed with dances and songs; and the performers, who are all females, are not only remarkable for their beauty, but theatrical accomplishments, which both together render them extremely fascinating to the spectators. We are informed, however, that the entertainments of the stage seemed very indifferent to Ayder, with whom it was usual, during their exhibition, to discourse with his ministers or ambassadors; sometimes passing into a cabinet to speak with more secrecy, and continuing to dispatch business, as in the morning. The economy of his theatrical entertainments, as far as regards himself, afford a strange mixture of political avocations and personal frivolity.

‘Almost always, we are told, before the end of the performance, flowers are brought in a basket of filigram, out of which he himself gives a few to the lords who are about him; and afterwards the basket is carried into the apartments of the theatre, every one taking a small flower from them, and returning a profound reverence to the prince. This takes place even to the lowest secretary. When Ayder wishes to give a particular mark of his esteem, he himself makes a collar of jasmine flowers, knotting them with silk as he converses, which he himself adjusts round the neck of the happy mortal to whom he gives this glorious mark of his esteem and favour. He has several times conferred this honour on the chiefs of his Europeans, knowing well that the French, above all nations, esteem themselves well paid by this sort of money. He who has received this honour is visited the following day by the first people of the court to compliment him.’

In the first volume of this history, the author delivers a cursory account of the different wars in which Ayder Ali had been engaged against the Marattas, the English, and other enemies; because not having joined the army of the nabob before the time of the war on the coast of Malabar, he could not speak copiously of such military operations as he could only know from the communications of others. But, in the second volume, he recites with greater minuteness, and from his own personal knowledge, the various transactions during the war which commenced between Ayder and the English, in 1767; giving first an account of the military force of both parties.

The author has given no detail of the operations of Ayder in the late war, having no other authority for such a narrative than the relations of the English, on which, he observes,

‘we can place little dependence, because they are fabricated

in

in India to deceive the English government, and afterwards arranged in Europe according to circumstances, and the necessity of imposing on the people.' How far this observation is just, it is impossible for us to determine; neither can we, without authenticated documents, decide with any certainty concerning the fidelity of the historian. He appears, however, to be an unprejudiced writer, and we have no reason to suspect him of misrepresentation.

Memoirs of the Protectorate-House of Cromwell; deduced from an early Period, and continued down to the present Time. By Mark Noble, F. S. A. Two Volumes. 8vo. 12s. in Boards. Baldwin.

IN the preface to these volumes the author observes, that whatever elucidates our history is deserving the attention of a Briton; and that little apology, therefore, is necessary for offering the work to the public. We entirely agree with him in respect to the justness of the former clause of this proposition; but cannot so readily give our concurrence to the application he has made of it. Those who are conversant in the literary productions of the last twenty years will recollect many instances in which, from a mistaken idea of this principle, such works have been obtruded upon the public as could have no claim to its attention. A narrative of births, marriages, and deaths, continued through a series of ages, is certainly well accommodated to the purpose of a parish-register; but is utterly incapable of answering any useful end of historical knowledge. It seems to us a very improper conclusion, that because one or two persons of a family have drawn the attention of the world, the whole of their genealogical connexions, so far as they can be traced from any record, must likewise have a claim to public notice. If the most distant degree of consanguinity to any celebrated character, should be deemed a sufficient foundation for perpetual remembrance, it would often happen that the page of history would sink into the annals of Newgate; and the reward of honest fame be conferred upon persons whose memorials ought to have perished with them.

This work begins with a table of the pedigree of the Cromwells, from Glothian, the fifth lord of Powis, who lived a little before the Norman conquest, to Gregory lord Cromwell, son of Thomas, who was created earl of Essex by Henry VIII. Mr. Noble confirms the account that the original name of the Cromwells was Williams, and that they derived their origin from Wales. It would be superfluous to give

give any detail of the various persons mentioned by our author in his narrative of this family, as many of them have no other pretensions to a place in the temple of fame, than having been the ancestors or other relations of the protector; and *vix ea nostra voco* is no less applicable both to progenitors and collateral kindred than to descendants. We shall therefore content ourselves with presenting to our readers a letter addressed to his highness Richard lord Cromwell, as a specimen of the few original documents which Mr. Noble has adduced in this work. It is copied from a manuscript in the possession of sir Thomas Heathcote.

‘ My lord,

‘ Give me leave, after my long silence, to present my most humble respects, as to yourselfe, so to your most honourable and ever honoured consort, having you both daily in remembrance before the lord, as one who have beene sensible of your many and greate exercises in the midst of y^e great changes, which of late, have passed over us, in which our convulsion fits come so fast, that many feare we cannot hold out long, onely, the state hath, hitherto, beene upheld somewhat like the embleme of Geneva; a city in the ayre, upheld by an hand from heaven; for basis, we have none, but what that divine hand doth afford us, and how long it will continue thus to support us (our sins encreasing daily upon us) we have no small cause to feare. For the transgressions of a land, many are y^e princes thereof. All these paroxismes and feaverish distempers are y^e fruits of many provocations; this is the originall of our many concussions, & y^t our Israel is smitten as a reed is shaken in y^e water. We complain y^t your fences are broken downe, & your plants rooted up, but our sins have let in both y^e bores and foxes, & whilest we are crying out of bad times, we have more cause to complaine of worse hearts, & lives; & whilest we fall fowle with evill instruments, we consider not y^t y^e controversy against us lyeth in heaven. As for yourselfe, my lord, I hope your present retirement & privicy hath given you an acceptable opportunity to study y^e creature’s vanity, and y^e emptines of height, greatnes, power, worldly glory, popular acclamations, & professions, &c. And as to this point, this joint of time hath taught you very much, which well to learne will do you more good, then it is possible for men to do you harme. And were you to make your choice againe, either of your late station, or present condition (the public good set asyde) y^e election were soone made by him that had tryed both. As for y^e first of them, besides your freedome from meany temptations, you are exempted from y^e daily incumbency of over-bearing necessary cares & burdens, which (most probably) in a few years would have exhausted your spirits, & have rendered them a sacrifice to an ingratefull generation, as it befell your renowned father before you. Wherefore, my lord, rejoyce in your portion, & be ambitious of spirituall exaltation, which

which admits not of ye variableness to which secular honours are obnoxious. One God in Christ, hath more honour, & glory, & riches, & delights, than a thousand worlds, were there so many. How gladly should I see & serve you, my ever hon^d lord, if an infirme body would give me leave! I sometimes visite ye Cock-pit, & bestow my labours there on ye Lord's day, I hope not in vayne. I yet possesse ye Savoy, though, not long since, heaved at, by S^r. A. H. upon ye account (I suppose) of my service to your father & yoursele. I have found it good to be sensible of the common concussions, as to all our earthly concernments. Let me presume in ye close, to present my humble service to much-honourd mr. Major, and mrs. Major, & then I have no more but unfeignedly to recommend you, with all belonging to you, to the most rich grace of God in Jesus Christ, & to subscribe mysele,

‘ My lord, your most humble servant,

‘ WILLIAM HOOKE.’

Though it is not probable that this work will prove interesting to the public, it must have cost the reverend author no small degree of pains and attention. It bears indisputable marks of uncommon research, and what is yet more honourable, of a liberal exemption from prejudice. Nor can we refrain from wishing that so much industry as Mr. Noble appears to be endowed with, should be employed on subjects better adapted for general entertainment and information.

Biographia Britannica: or, the Lives of the most eminent Persons who have flourished in Great Britain and Ireland, from the earliest Ages to the present Times. The second Edition, with Corrections, Enlargements, and the Addition of new Lives. By Andrew Kippis, D. D. F. R. S. and S. A. with the Assistance of other Gentlemen. Vol. III. Fol. 1l. 11s. 6d. Bathurst.

IN the preface to this volume, Dr. Kippis apologizes for the lateness of its appearance, in a manner so ingenuous and satisfactory, that no purchaser who has the least degree of candour, will think he has any reason to complain. Though the proprietors are as liberal as their profits will allow, the emolument which the learned and ingenious editor derives from the publication is very inconsiderable, compared with the time and labour which are spent upon it. ‘ Nearly one half of this volume consists of fresh matter;’ and every one who is qualified to be a judge in this case, that is, every man who knows and reflects, what extensive reading, what a number of enquiries, what investigation, what sagacity, what attention, what accuracy, are required in conducting this work, will, instead of censoring the author, admire his industry and per-

perseverance. The truth is, a new edition of the *Biographia* requires the united efforts of eight or ten writers of the first abilities in the kingdom. But when we find only one or two, without any assistance, except some occasional and uncertain auxiliaries, undertaking this important work, and labouring through eleven or twelve folio volumes, we cannot but reflect with indignation on the indolence, the ignorance, the frivolism of those who have had an academical education, and either by their fortunes or their *PREFERMENTS*, are enabled to pursue their studies with ease and freedom, and support the literary character of their country.

This volume contains one hundred and fifteen lives. Of this number thirty-six are entirely new; and fifty-eight, enlarged by additional anecdotes or remarks. The rest have received some occasional emendations. The new lives are those of the following eminent persons: namely, James Burgh, John Burton, Ed. Bentham, Joseph Butler, John Byrom, Sebast. Cabot, John Campbell (duke of Argyle), Arch. Campbell (duke of Argyle), John Campbell, John Canton, R. Carew, Sir G. Carew, Dudley Carleton, W. Carstares, T. Carte, John Cartaret (earl Granville), T. Cartwright, W. Casson, Edm. Castell, Ed. Cave, Margaret Cavendish, Susannah Centlivre, Eph. Chambers, Sam. Chandler, G. Chapman, W. Cheselden, G. Cheyne, Edm. Chishull, Th. Chubb, Ch. Churchill, Colley Cibber, W. Clarke, Rob. Clayton (bishop of Clogher), John Cleiveland, Rob. lord Clive, and Cath. Cockburn.

The editor tells us, that he intended to have inserted the life of Chatterton in this volume; but that he has omitted it for the following reason:

‘ There is one important article, which I have been obliged to defer to the conclusion of the letter C, where it will be introduced by way of Appendix, and that is Chatterton. From the many tracts, which have already been published concerning this extraordinary youth, I was in hopes, that the controversy excited by him would have been so far ended, that I should be able to give the history of it in the present volume. But this I found was by no means the case. My ingenious and learned friend, Mr. Herbert Croft, is writing an improved life of Chatterton; and he will accompany it with another edition of the poems ascribed to Rowley, which is expected to throw new and particular light on the subject. For this publication, therefore, I have determined to wait, that the *Biographia* may be as complete a depository as possible of what shall have been advanced on one of the most curious literary questions, which hath occurred in any age of the world. I request permission to add, that the view of the controversy shall be conducted with impartiality and candour.

If the apprehended force of evidence should incline me to one side of the argument, my sentiments shall be expressed with all the respect, which is due to the able and worthy men, from whom I may differ in opinion.'

The life of Cleiveland the poet is written by the right reverend Dr. Percy, bishop of Dromore, who is descended from the family; that of lord Clive, by Henry Beaufoy, Esq. representative in the present parliament for Yarmouth, in Norfolk; and that of Mr. Edward Cave, by Dr. Johnson, first printed in the Gentleman's Magazine for Feb. 1754, and inserted in the Biographia by the author's permission.

The Lives of Cabot, John and Archibald Campbell, dukes of Argyle, Centlivre, Chandler, Chapman, Cheyne, Cibber, and Cockburn, are the productions of Dr. Towers.

In about twenty-four pages of corrigenda and addenda, the editor has given some farther anecdotes of Addison, Akenfide, Arbuthnot, Atterbury, Thomas and Henry Baker, Bentley, Berkeley, Birch, Boyle, John Brown, and others.

The life of Dr. Campbell contains a great variety of literary information. The materials of this article were communicated to the editor by Mr. William Wharton, who was thirty years Dr. Campbell's amanuensis, and the rev. Mr. Hall, rector of Child Okeford, Dorsetshire, a particular friend of the doctor's. We do not know upon what authority an assertion in the following paragraph is founded.

'What smaller pieces might be written by Dr. Campbell, in the early part of his life, we are not capable of ascertaining; but we know that, in 1736, before he had completed his thirtieth year, he gave to the public in two volumes folio, 'The Military History of Prince Eugene and the Duke of Marlborough, comprehending the History of both those illustrious persons to the time of their decease.' This performance was enriched with maps, plans, and cuts, by the best hands, and particularly by the ingenious Claude de Bosc. The reputation, hence acquired by our author, occasioned him soon after to be solicited to take a part in the ancient Universal History, a work of great merit, as well as magnitude, though drawn up with something of that inequality, which is almost unavoidable, when a number of persons are engaged in carrying on the same undertaking. This history was published at first, we believe, periodically; and five volumes of it, in folio, were completed in 1740. The sixth volume was finished in 1742, and the seventh in 1744. A second edition of it, in octavo, began to be published in 1747, and was carried on monthly, with uncommon success, till the whole was concluded in twenty volumes. For what parts of it the republic of letters was more immediately indebted to Dr. Campbell, it is not in our power to determine, excepting that he is understood to have been the writer of the Cosmogony, which
affords

affords a distinguished proof of his extensive acquaintance with the systems of the ancient philosophers. Whilst our author was employed in this capital work he found leisure to entertain the world with other productions.'

It is observed, that the reputation which Dr. Campbell had acquired by his publication in 1736, induced the proprietors of the Universal History to solicit his assistance in compiling that work. But how is this consistent with the supposition of his writing the Cosmogony? In the preface to the first volume, which was completed in 1736, the authors inform us, 'that there had been a great demand for the sheets of that volume, not only at home, but abroad; and that they had been translated into several languages.' If we may believe Psalmanazar, the third number was published in 1730. The Cosmogony therefore must have been written *before* the publication of Dr. Campbell's Military History.

The Cosmogony is a very learned and elaborate performance. It fills above fifty pages, in folio; and shews the author's intimate acquaintance with the opinions of the ancient and modern philosophers, and of the Oriental writers. But in the year 1730, Dr. Campbell was only twenty-two years of age; and it is hardly possible that he should then be master of so much profound erudition. Besides, he was, about that time, or soon afterwards, engaged in writing two large volumes in a very different department of literature, which were published in 1736.

Mr. Sale, the translator of the Coran, was one of the first projectors and authors of the Universal History. He was perfectly well qualified for writing the Cosmogony. But whether he was the author of it, or Mr. Swinton, or some other Orientalist, or (which we rather think improbable) Dr. Campbell, we do not pretend to determine; we only wish for better information.

The following extract, as it immediately relates to the *Biographia Britannica*, may not be unacceptable to our readers.

'This work began to be published in weekly numbers, in 1745; the first volume was completed in 1746, and the second in 1748. By one of those revolutions, to which the best designs are subject, the public attention to the *Biographia* seemed to flag, when about two volumes had been printed: but this attention was soon revived by the very high encomium that was passed upon it by Mr. Gilbert West, at the close of his poem on education; from which time the undertaking was carried on with encreasing reputation and success. We need not say, that its reputation and success was greatly owing to our author (Dr. Campbell.) It is no disparagement to the learning and abilities of his coadjutors to assert, that his articles constitute the prime merit

merit of the four volumes through which they extend. He was not satisfied with giving a cold narration of personal circumstances relative to the eminent men whose lives he drew up, but was ambitious of entering into such a copious and critical disquisition of their actions or writings, as should render the *Biographia Britannica* a most valuable repository of historical and literary knowledge. The end he has admirably accomplished, and herein left an excellent example to his successors. We have formerly mentioned, that he received the thanks of John, the fifth earl of Orrery, "in the name of all the Boyles for the honour he had done to them, and to his own judgment, by placing the family in such a light as to give a spirit of emulation to those who were hereafter to inherit the title." The ingenious Mr. Walpole, speaking of the Campbells, earls of Argyle, adds, "it is totally unnecessary for me to enter into their characters, that task having been so fully performed by one who wears the honour of their name, and who, it is no compliment to say, is one of the ablest and most beautiful writers of this country. The like encomium might be extended to many other articles, several of which are so uniformly complete, and so highly finished, that it is difficult to ascertain where the preference ought to be given. Were we however to select any single life from the rest, we should say, that the account of Roger Bacon alone would be sufficient to procure for our author no small degree of reputation. One thing, by which he is peculiarly distinguished, is the candour displayed by him with respect to those persons, from whom he most differed in religious and political opinions. After he had written the lives of the Calamys, he was waited upon by the rev. Mr. Edmund Calamy, to thank him for those articles, and especially for the justice done to his great grandfather, the first divine of that family. Mr. Calamy was even surprized to find that Mr. Campbell was a member of the church of England; and still more so, when he learned that our biographer had undertaken the articles of Mr. Baxter and Dr. Conant, on purpose to prevent their falling into hands that might not equally be disposed to pay the testimony due to their respective merits. Indeed, our author has been charged with an excess of candour, in some of the accounts given in the *Biographia*. But if, in a few instances, there should appear to be any ground for this charge, it ought to be remembered, that his error never proceeded from any intention to flatter or deceive, but from the amiable benevolence of his heart, and from his readiness to discern and to acknowledge the talents and the worthiness of men, who were of the most opposite principles and parties. It ought also to be remembered, that his candour was not unfrequently the result of superior knowledge; and that it led him into disquisitions, which tended to throw new light on characters and actions.'

The

The next article exhibits a general view of Mr. Canton's ingenious experiments and discoveries in electricity, magnetism, and other parts of natural philosophy.

In the life of Mr. Chambers, the editor has given us an entertaining history of the Cyclopædia, and an account of the most distinguished publications on the same plan, particularly the Encyclopédie of Paris.

Among other judicious remarks subjoined to the life of Dr. Clarke, we have a full and satisfactory refutation of the anecdote, propagated by the chevalier Ramsay, concerning Dr. Clarke's having acknowledged to the chevalier, 'that he greatly repented he had ever published his work on the Trinity.' Having recited the testimonies of Mr. Emlyn, bishop Hoadly, and Mr. Clarke, the son of Dr. Clarke, with the remarks made by Mr. Lindsey, in his Historical View, our biographer adds: 'Though we feel the truth and force of Mr. Lindsey's last observation relative to the pious frauds which bigots and enthusiasts in all ages have thought themselves justified in adopting, we are desirous, if possible, of letting Mr. Ramsay off upon easier terms. As, notwithstanding his absurdities and whims, eminently conspicuous in his later writings, we have always considered him as not only a man of ingenuity, but of a respectable moral character, we are willing to suppose, that he mistook some expression in his conversation with Dr. Clarke; and that this mistake, operating on a sanguine disposition and a warm imagination, ripened, in a course of years, into the assertion he has made, without his absolutely intending to deliver a falsehood. But to whatever causes it was owing, that he has advanced a falsehood is a clear matter of fact. It must therefore now be regarded as a decided point, that Dr. Clarke never retracted his opinion concerning the Trinity; so that if any reports of a similar nature with those we have already confuted should again happen to be spread abroad, they are at once to be rejected as totally groundless.'

In confirmation of these attestations and remarks, we may observe, that it is utterly improbable, that Dr. Clarke should make this pretended confession: Had he been guilty of any crime or indiscretion in the publication of his work?—Far from it. He had written THE BEST BOOK on the Trinity that had ever appeared in any language; he had, with infinite pains, brought into one view all the passages in the New Testament, relating to the subject; he had subjoined the opinions of the most eminent writers on every article; he had proposed his own interpretations with an amiable spirit of moderation and candour, and left every reader to form his own

Judgement of the question in dispute; he was conscious that the pursuit of truth had been his only study; he had survived the opposition of ignorance and bigotry, and could not but be sensible, that the clamour and turbulence of angry zealots would gradually subside; that posterity would consider the question with more impartiality; and that reason would finally prevail. Under these circumstances, it is impossible that we should give the least degree of credit to the report of the chevalier Ramsay; or consider it in any other view than as one of those idle and unmeaning fictions, or exaggerations of a real fact, which vanity and ostentation will sometimes suggest.

The present volume of the *Biographia* ends with the life of sir Edward Coke. The publication of the succeeding volumes, we are told, will be more expeditious, without any diminution of the attention with which this work has hitherto been conducted.

A Letter to Dr. Priestley; occasioned by his late Pamphlet, addressed to the Rev. Mr. S. Badcock. 8vo. 1s. Baldwin.

A Considerable part of this pamphlet is employed in animadversions on Dr. Priestley's account of a passage in Justin Martyr's Dialogue with Trypho: ΕΙΣΙΝ οὐ καὶ εὐγενεῖς, α. τ. λ. p. 253, edit. 1686.

The doctor's account of it is as follows:

‘It hath been sufficiently observed, with what respect Justin Martyr treats the ancient Unitarians, evidently shewing, that in his time his own doctrines stood in need of an apology. There are two passages in this writer, in which he speaks of heretics with great indignation, as not Christians, but as persons whose tenets were absurd, impious, and blasphemous, with whom Christians held no communion; but in both passages he evidently had a view to the Gnostics *only*, denominated from the name of their teachers. He particularly mentions the Marcionites, the Valentinians, the Basilideans, and the Saturninians. He says, *they blasphemed the Maker of the world, and the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*: that they denied the resurrection, and maintained that after death the soul went immediately to heaven*.’

The author of this letter gives the following translation of the passage in dispute, and places it and Dr. Priestley's account of it in opposite columns.

‘There are indeed many who make a profession of Christianity, who avow atheistical and blasphemous tenets, and act according to the influence of such doctrines. Amongst us the

* Letter to Dr. Horsley, p. 31.

are denominated by the names of those from whom they derived their respective principles. Some therefore in one way, and others in another, teach their own peculiar method of blaspheming the Maker of all things and CHRIST, *who was to come from him as foretold in prophecy*; and who was THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND ISAAC, AND JACOB. With persons of this description we hold no communion; convinced that they are atheistical, impious, unjust, and licentious; and who, instead of WORSHIPING CHRIST, only confess him by name. They call themselves Christians with just the same propriety as the heathens inscribe the name of God on works constructed by human skill; and mix in impious and impure rites. Some of these are called Marcionites, some Valentinians, some Basilideans, some Saturnilians; and *there are also others who are distinguished by other names* according to the different denominations of their respective leaders*.”

This writer observes, that, by ‘the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob’, Justin meant our blessed Saviour. With respect to this point, there is no dispute. The same opinion is also maintained by Tertullian, and by almost all those who are called the fathers †. Our author however treats Dr. Priestley with great asperity for omitting the name of Christ; insisting, that by this ‘artifice’, this ‘mutilation’, as he calls it, ‘he has destroyed all appearance of distinction, where an express distinction was originally made, and was particularly intended to be noticed by this ancient writer.’

But how does it appear that this was an artifice? A distinction of persons is evidently implied in these words: ‘They blasphemed the maker of the world; AND the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.’ The distinction is obvious to every reader in the least acquainted with the writings of Justin or the fathers; and the two persons can scarcely be confounded by any readers, unless by those who may probably overlook a similar distinction in the following sentence: ‘Naboth did blaspheme God, AND the king.’ We can easily conceive that Dr. Priestley might not think it necessary to give a formal translation of every word in the text, but esteem it sufficient to mention this passage in general terms. It must however be observed, in his vindication, that he has subjoined the Greek quotation at full length in the margin.

This conduct seems very excusable, as the passage in dispute, as far as we can perceive, has NO relation to the Uni-

* * Just. Dial. p. 208. Edit. Thyrl.

† Ος ὡφείη τῷ τῷ Ἀβραάμ, καὶ τῷ Ἰσαακ, καὶ τῷ Ἰακώβ, καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις πατριάρχαις. Dial. cum Tryph. p. 356.—Id verbum filium ejus appellatum, in nomine Dei variè visum à patriarchis, Tert. de Præscript. Hæret. § 13.

tarians. The author particularly specifies a VERY DIFFERENT class of men, the propagators and defenders of Gnosticism, the Marcionites *, the Valentinians, the Basilidians, the Saturnilians, &c. who ascribed the creation of the world and the Jewish dispensation to an *evil* principle; who rejected *the law and the prophets*, and denied the *reality* of our Saviour's corporeal nature and sufferings; and, by such wild and visionary conceits, blasphemed the Maker of all things, and Christ who was to come from him, as foretold in prophecy, and who was the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

When many of these heretics supposed Christ to be only a phantom, and entertained other fantastical and degrading notions of his person and character; instead of treating him with reverence, they only, as Justin observes, 'confessed him by name.'

The author of this pamphlet censures Dr. Priestley for translating *τον Ιησυν σεβειν*, 'reverencing Jesus,' and thinks this a flagrant perversion of the original meaning: but it is of no consequence whether *σεβειν* be translated 'reverencing', or 'worshipping'; for *αυτι τα τον Ιησυν σεβειν* seems to be nothing more than a general expression, implying that respect, that reverence, or that worship, whatever it was, which was paid by the orthodox Christians, in opposition to the dishonourable representations of the heretics above mentioned, who may be said, *κατ' εξοχην*, to have 'confessed him only in name.'

In this place it may not be improper to inquire, what idea Justin had of God the Father and of Jesus Christ, and of the worship which was due to them respectively.

'If ye had considered, says he, the things spoken by the prophets, ye would not have denied Christ, *ειναι θεον, τα ΜΟΝΟΥ, και αγεννητον, και αρρητον Θεον υιον*, to be God, who is the son of the ONLY, and unbegotten, and ineffable God.' Dial. cum Tryph. p. 355.

Τον δημιουργον ταδε τα παντος σεβομενοι—τον διδασκαλον τε τειλων γενομενον ημιν—υιον αυτης του ΟΝΤΩΣ Θεο μαθοντες, και εν δευτερα χωρα εχοντες, πνευμα τε προφητικον εν τριη ταξει, οτι μεγαλογρα τιμωμεν, αποδειξομεν. Apol. ii. p. 60. 'We worship

* Cerdon introducit initia duo, id est, duos deos, unum bonum, et alterum sævum: bonum superiorem, sævum hunc, mundi creatorem. Hic prophetas et legem repudiat, Deo creatori renunciat, superioris Dei filium Christum venisse tractat; hunc in substantiâ carnis negat, in phantasmate solo fuisse pronunciat, nec omninò passum, sed quasi passum; nec ex virgine natum, sed omninò nec natum, &c. Post hunc discipulus ipsius Marcion, hæresin Cerdonis approbare conatus est, eadem dicere, quæ ille superior hæreticus ante dixerat. Tertul. de Præscript. Hæret. § 51. Vide Just. Martyr. de Marcione, Apol. II. p. 70, 92.

the Maker of the universe; and I shall shew that we do also, with good reason, HONOUR, in the second place, our master, who taught us these things, being the son of the TRUE God; and, in the third place, the prophetic spirit'.

Επι πασι τε οἷς προσφερομεθα, ευλογεμεν τον ποιητην των παντων, ΔΙΑ ΤΗΝ υἱΟΝ αυτου ΙησΟΝ ΧρισΤΟΝ. Apol. 11. p. 98. 'In all our oblations we give praise to the Creator of all things, THROUGH his son Jesus Christ.'

In these passages there is nothing but what is favourable to the sentiments of the Unitarians; it is therefore utterly improbable that Justin should reckon them among those impious heretics, whose absurdities were of a very different nature. Our author's conclusion, that he tacitly alludes to the Unitarians under the word αλλοι, 'others', is arbitrary and illogical.

A passage quoted by Dr. Priestley from the creed of Tertullian, and a reference to Valesius, the editor of Eusebius, are the subjects of this writer's castigation in the latter part of his letter.

This writer is evidently the author of those animadversions on the works of Dr. Priestley, which have lately appeared in the Monthly Review. The letter before us is written with great virulence, exultation, and triumph; and with an air of contempt for the author of *The Corruptions of Christianity*, which he does not deserve. But these personal and illiberal invectives, we hope, will not be any longer continued. Let this animated polemic stop his hand for a moment, and perhaps he may hear the genius of his old friend whispering in his ear this useful admonition:

'Projice tela manu, sanguis meus.'

Sermons translated from the original French of the late Rev. James Saurin, Pastor of the French Church at the Hague. Vol. I. On the Attributes of God. By Robert Robinson. 8vo. 5s. in Boards. Dilly.

THE celebrated author of these discourses was born in 1677, at Nîmes in France, where his father was an eminent protestant lawyer. After the revocation of the edict of Nantes*, in 1685, he retired with his father to Geneva. In the year 1700, he visited England, and preached with great applause to his fellow exiles in London. Five years afterwards he went to the Hague, and was chosen one of the

* * This edict was published at Nantes, in 1598, by Henry IV. for the toleration of the protestants in his kingdom; and revoked in 1685, by Lewis XIV. though his most Christian majesty had sworn to observe it.

pastors of the French church in that village. In this office he continued till his death, which happened in December 1730.

His most considerable work was *Dissertations on the most memorable Events of the Old and New Testament*, in three volumes, folio; but he died before the third volume was completed. Mr. Roques however finished this volume, and subjoined a fourth on the Old Testament. Afterwards Mr. Beau-fobre added two volumes on the New Testament. The first volume of this excellent work was translated into English by Mr. Chamberlayne, soon after its publication in French.

Besides some other works, Mr. Saurin published twelve volumes of sermons, in octavo, which have been translated into several languages, and are justly and generally admired. The five volumes now offered to the public are collected from the whole, and arranged in the following order: vol. i. on the Attributes of God; vol. ii. on the Truth of Revelation; vol. iii. on the principal Doctrines of Christianity; vol. iv. on Christian Morality; vol. v. on Miscellaneous subjects.

Mr. Saurin possessed great abilities, and wrote his sermons in a free, copious, and oratorical style; and, at the same time, with great perspicuity. The following extract will be no improper specimen:

‘A novice is frightened at hearing what astronomers assert; that the sun is a million times bigger than the earth; that the naked eye discovers more than a thousand fixed stars, which are so many suns to enlighten unknown systems: that with the help of glasses we may discover an almost infinite number: that two thousand have been reckoned in one constellation; and that, without exaggerating, they may be numbered at more than two millions: that what are called nebulous stars, of which there is an innumerable multitude, that appear to us as if they were involved in little misty clouds, are all assemblages of stars.

‘A novice is frightened when he is told, that there is such a prodigious distance between the earth and the sun, that a body, moving with the greatest rapidity that art could produce, would take up twenty-five years in passing from the one to the other; that it would take up seven hundred and fifty thousand to pass from the earth to the nearest of the fixed stars: and to the most distant more than a hundred millions of years.

‘A novice is frightened: (do not accuse me, my brethren, of wandering from the subject of this discourse, for the saints, who are proposed in scripture as patterns to us, cherished their devotions with meditations of this kind: at the sight of these grand objects they exclaimed, O Lord, when we consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars which thou hast ordained; what is man that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man that thou visitest him? Psal. viii. 3, 4.
And

And my text engageth me to fix your attention upon these objects: lift up your eyes on high and behold.) A novice is frightened, when he is assured that, although the stars which form a constellation, seem to touch one another, yet the distance of those that are nearest together cannot be ascertained; and that even words are wanting to express the spaces which separate those that are at the greatest distances from each other: that if two men were observing two fixed stars, from two parts of the earth, the most distant from each other, the lines that went from their eyes, and terminated on that star, would be confounded together; that it would be the same with two men, were one of them upon earth, and the other in the sun, though the sun and the earth are at such a prodigious distance from each other; so inconsiderable is that distance in comparison of the space which separates both from the star. All this startles a novice: and yet, what are these bodies, countless in their number, and enormous in their size? What are these unmeasurable spaces, which absorb our senses and imaginations? What are all these in comparison of what reason discovers? Shall we be puerile enough to persuade ourselves that there is nothing beyond what we see? Have we not reason to think that there are spaces far, far beyond, full of the Creator's wonders, and affording matter of contemplation to the thousand thousands, to the ten thousand times ten thousand intelligences that he hath made? Dan. vii. 10.

'Here let us pause. Over all this universe God reigns. But what is man even in comparison of this earth? "Let him reflect on himself," (I borrow the words of a modern author) "let him consider what he is in comparison of the whole that exists beside: let him regard himself as confined in this obscure by-corner of nature: and from the appearance of the little dungeon where he is lodged, that is, of this visible world, let him learn to estimate the world, its kingdoms, and himself at their real value." Isaiah estimates their real value in the words of my text. Behold, says he, all nations before him are as a drop of a bucket: they are of no more value than the small dust that cleaves to the balance: God sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grass-hoppers: yea, they are still less considerable, all nations before him are as nothing.'

There is great force of argument, as well as many pathetic addresses to the passions, in these discourses. The author's eloquence is at least equal to that of the best French preachers. But an Englishman, used to cool, compact reasoning, will think Mr. Saurin's language, on many occasions, too diffuse and declamatory.

To this volume are prefixed Memoirs of the Reformation in France, and of the Life of Mr. Saurin.

Dramatic Miscellanies. By Thomas Davies. (Concluded, from page 336. Vol. lvii.)

WE return with pleasure to our entertaining Nestor, who with ardour shews 'how fields were won,' and again 'he slays the slain.' In *Macbeth*, Mr. Davies begins with a fundamental mistake.

'First Witch. When shall we three meet again?'

'It has been an old complaint of stage critics, that the parts of the witches are always distributed amongst the low comedians, who, by mistaking the sense of the author, render those sentiments ridiculous which were designed by him to be spoken with gravity and solemnity. Should we suppose this charge to be well founded, it would not be a very easy task to remove it; for the tragedians are all employed in various parts of the drama, suited to their several abilities, so that none but the comic actors are left to wear gowns, beards, and coifs. But, I confess, I do not see the propriety of the accusation. There is, in the witches, something odd and peculiar, and approaching to what we call humour. The manners bestowed on these beings are more suitable to our notions of comic than tragic action, and better fitted to Yates and Edwin, than Henderson and Smith. Nor do I see any impropriety in the manner adopted by the present comedians, who have too much understanding to sacrifice sentiment to grimace, or propriety to buffoonery. From the dramatis personæ of Davenant's *Macbeth*, we see the parts of the witches given to the low comedians of those times; and in this the alterer, who had seen plays at the Globe, and in Blackfriars, long before the civil wars, followed, in all probability, the practice of the old stage.'

The example of sir William Davenant is of little consequence in the argument; for the change of a tragedy to an opera required some comic scenes, and there were few capable of becoming so but those of witches. Besides, the additional matter, introduced by Davenant in these parts, fully prove his intention: the horrid solemnity of Shakspeare's witches is interspersed with grotesque dances, and ludicrous incantations. Again, the force of the whole tragedy depends on the confidence of *Macbeth* in the predictions of the weird sisters; and, to impose on him, they should have the semblance, at least, of reality: if they are ludicrous, the whole sinks into farce. But the matter is easily explained. The belief in witches was popular in the reign of the weak and superstitious James; consequently Shakspeare made them important agents, with all the solemnity which should attend the actions of superior beings. After the Restoration, opinions were very different; and, if the witches were to be revived, they might have

have appeared in a more ludicrous light. We are now far enough removed from the politics of the day, to restore them safely to their former stations; and, though the tragedians are otherwise employed, yet these parts require only a solemn dignity, and an obscure or inarticulate enunciation.

The play of Macbeth is, on the whole, an astonishing performance; and there is no character on the stage which is with so much difficulty personated. There are many passages in our author's Miscellaneous remarks, which would occasion some animadversion, or tempt us to transcribe; but we can only insert the following picture. It is drawn with force and feeling.

'The representation of this terrible part of the play, by Garrick and Mrs. Pritchard, can no more be described than I believe it can be equalled. I will not separate these performers, for the merits of both were transcendent. His distraction of mind and agonizing horrors were finely contrasted by her seeming apathy, tranquillity, and confidence. The beginning of the scene, after the murder, was conducted in terrifying whispers. Their looks and action supplied the place of words. You heard what they spoke, but you learned more from the agitation of mind displayed in their action and deportment. The poet here gives only an outline to the consummate actor.—*I have done the deed!—Didst thou not hear a noise?—When?—Did you not speak?*—The dark colouring, given by the actor to these abrupt speeches, makes the scene awful and tremendous to the auditors! The wonderful expression of heart-full horror, which Garrick felt when he shewed his bloody hands, can only be conceived and described by those who saw him!'

There is a striking inaccuracy in the poet, in the conduct of this play, which has never been remarked. To render the contrast between Macbeth and his lady more strong, he is represented as gentle, compassionate, and loyal. He shrinks at the proposed murder, and feels the strongest compunction when he has committed it. Yet there *was* a time when he was active in the attempt. Lady Macbeth observes,

'When you durst do it, then you were a man.

* * * * *

* * *

nor time nor place

Did then adhere, and yet you would make both:

They have made themselves, and that their fitness now

Does unmake you.'

This certainly could not allude to the time of the play, for the intended murder of Duncan is opened only at the moment of his visit, which is opposed in the speech to some former period. It is another instance only of Shakspeare's forgetfulness.

ness. In the scene of the banquet, our author seems to think that the ghost did not actually appear; but he is allowed to appear in the closet scene of Hamlet, and other similar situations. Few actors can be terrified at a mere vision of the brain; and, when Hamlet sees his father in his *mind's eye*, his representative has sometimes, though a performer of credit and character, been looking at the upper gallery with an anxious scrutiny. But to return—

‘This admirable scene, says our author, was greatly supported by the speaking terrors of Garrick’s look and action. Mrs. Pritchard shewed admirable art in endeavouring to hide Macbeth’s frenzy from the observation of the guests, by drawing their attention to conviviality. She smiled on one, whispered to another, and distantly saluted a third; in short, she practiced every possible artifice to hide the transaction that passed between her husband and the vision his disturbed imagination had raised. Her reproving and angry looks, which glanced towards Macbeth, at the same time were mixed with marks of inward vexation and uneasiness. When, at last, as if unable to support her feelings any longer, she rose from her seat, and seized his arm, and, with a half-whisper of terror, said, ‘*Are you a man!*’ she assumed a look of such anger, indignation, and contempt, as cannot be surpassed.’

Julius Cæsar exhibits Mr. Davies in a different view. In this part of his work he examines the Roman stage with the accuracy of an antiquarian; and decides on the motives which induced the conspirators to murder the dictator, with the sagacity of a politician. We were surprised to find, in these volumes, which seemed chiefly to promise entertainment, so much real instruction on subjects that related, though distantly, to the stage. It will be a pleasing variety to the reader, but it is impossible for us to extract any specimen. In other respects the Essays of Mrs. Montague have not left our author many opportunities to illustrate.

The Tragedy of King Lear seems not to have been a favourite play on its first appearance, as there are fewer early editions of it than of many others. It is not necessary to enquire into the cause of this caprice. It could not be the catastrophe, for melancholy was familiar to the stage; nor could it be the conduct of the piece, which is in general affecting, and in some instances singularly interesting. The deficiencies of splendid exhibitions, or of preternatural beings, could not perhaps be compensated by natural and unassuming distress. Lear has derived little advantage from the efforts of those who endeavoured to remove its imperfections; but we still prefer the happy conclusion: reason opposes it, while the tortured feelings at once

once decide the contest. The stage-history is the most interesting part of Mr. Davies's collection.

Rule a Wife and Have a Wife is one of those plays which are still admired, perhaps as much from the inimitable powers of the actors, as from its intrinsic merit. Except a few scenes of little importance, the plan seldom rises above mediocrity; sometimes it is debased by gross errors. Mr. Garrick, Mr. King, and Mrs. Abingdon, are too well known, and too much admired, in their several parts, to require our applause. Mr. Davies seems rather to give the palm to their predecessors; but if we do not apply to him *every* part of Horace's character of an old man, he is at least 'laudator temporis acti.'

In this chapter we read an account of the life of Lope de Vega, and some judicious criticisms on Beaumont and Fletcher.

In the play of Hamlet we receive many valuable anecdotes, which illustrate particular parts of it. Betterton, who acted Hamlet, was taught by Sir William Davenant, from his recollection of Taylor, who had himself been taught by Shakspeare.—Mr. Davies, with much apparent reason, endeavours to show that Polonius was intended for a weak, trifling character. It was always acted by low comedians; and, when once represented differently by Woodward, appeared flat and insipid. We have on another occasion hinted, that Shakspeare, in the progress of this character, probably forgot his own designs in the beginning; or it is possible that he himself found the bad effect of the sententious gravity, and added 'a dram of base' to please the 'groundlings.' The difficulties on either side are almost unsurmountable.

Mr. Davies also introduces several anecdotes, to prove that actors have really felt, and demonstrated by involuntary expressions, the effects of their assumed situation. They have actually turned pale and red; but the power of imitation goes farther. A person has been able to bring back convulsive paroxysms, by recollecting and warmly dwelling on the incidents which once occasioned them; and we have heard that the pulse has been very sensibly affected, when a person has talked only of those events which have produced fainting. Our power, in this indirect way, over those functions which have been styled involuntary, is very considerable.

The character of Dryden is the subject of the next chapter; but his virtues and his faults are slightly discriminated. Dryden, as a dramatic writer, is now little known; though he possesses great merit, blended perhaps with still greater faults. We know not a better field for a candid and discerning critic. On the subject of Otway Mr. D. is more diffuse and more

en-

entertaining. To him, it is remarked, the honour of giving tragedy its true and genuine tone of language, 'was reserved;' but 'he wanted the variety and harmony of Dryden's numbers, with his various learning, or reasoning faculty, to embellish and diversify his tragedies.' Perhaps it may be truly said, that Otway owed more to nature than to art; more to his feeling than to his judgment; that he frequently succeeded in finishing particular parts, but seldom successfully completed the whole. Mr. D. considers the play of the Orphan at some length: the reader will be entertained with what he says of the character of Acasto.—The account of Mrs. Barry shows, in a striking light, the power of application and judgment, in correcting the defects of nature. We would recommend it to every actor who wishes to succeed in his profession.

Venice Preserved is the next play which engages Mr. Davies's attention; and he informs us of the tendency of some political passages which is not very generally known. He compares the plot also with the history of the conspiracy by St. Real; so that this chapter is very entertaining. He is a little mistaken in thinking, that the introduction of an amiable and delicate female among a gang of desperate parricides must shock the spectator. We have always thought, from the effect of this tragedy, that a great part of its fascinating power arises from this contrast of persons, manners, and sentiments. It requires no common share of dexterity to connect characters so dissimilar in the same design; and, when it is effected in a probable manner, the contrast relieves the mind without shocking the judgment.

The Rival Queens, or Alexander the Great, was the work of Lee, who carried every passion to extreme: his love was dotage, and his anger madness. We cannot add to this character; though we wish to soften it, by saying that dotage and madness may sometimes please. Indeed few spectators can see this tragedy well represented, without being whirled in the vortex of passion, to an utter insensibility of the absurdities of the piece.

The character of Congreve is now well known, and his merits are valued at their proper rate. Mr. Davies is not very partial to this author, and seems sometimes to dwell on his defects; but we should add, that this partiality is neither glaring nor offensive.

On the subject of Betterton, our author endeavours to correct some mistakes, which the authors of the Biographia Britannica have committed, by their inattention to Downes. But besides this advantage, he draws an amiable picture of the man;

man; as a manager and author also he was respectable; as an actor admirable.

Of Cibber our author relates many circumstances which he himself wished to conceal.—A more favourable account of Verbruggen than is to be found in the Apology, is also given on good authority, by Mr. Davies.

We cannot leave our author, without bearing a testimony to his merits. Every thing relating to the stage seems to have been his object. Circumstances which relate to the Greek and Roman stage are not uncommon; and, among the histories of Garrick and Betterton, of Quin and Oldfield, we find those of Roscius and Esopus.

An Analysis of the Greek Metres. For the Use of Students at the Universities. By J. B. Seale, M. A. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Rivington.

HEPHÆSTION, who flourished under Hadrian, is considered as the most capital among the Greeks in investigating the component elements of poetry. Terentianus Maurus, who wrote in verse on the same subject, is of equal repute among the Latin authors. Mr. Seale, among the English, though indebted to their preceding labours, as neither of them wrote in the most perspicuous manner, we trust deserves an equal rank in philological fame. This little treatise certainly contains a just and compendious account of the different metres used by the Greek poets. It is intended to assist the progress of those students who are already conversant in the elementary rules of prosody: and if the author proceeds, as he seems well qualified to do, in pointing out the beauties and defects which may be found in these poets, and adds some useful precepts for composition, future Glasses and Huntinfords may arise, and with greater ease amuse the learned, by displaying the wonderful variety of metre to be found in this rich and copious language. If he does not, (and we would not willingly suppose that the enabling those students to understand quantity, scan verses, tell their names, and their component feet, is the grand ultimum) what has been said of rhetoric may be thought applicable in the present case, 'that it teaches us how to name our tools, not how to use them.'

For the information of those who have no idea of the great diversity of metrical combinations to be found in Greek verse, we shall subjoin, what may make 'the unlearned stare,' the following

TABLE

TABLE OF FEET.

Feet of 3 times, or Trisemi.	Iambus	υ -	Θῆων.
	Trochee	- υ	Σῶμα.
	Tribrach	υ υ υ	Ἐδέτο.
Feet of 4 times, or Tetrasemi.	Spondee	- -	Θῦμῶ.
	Dactyl	- υ υ	Ἐννέπε.
	Anapæst	υ υ -	Μεγάλην.
Feet of 5 times, or Pentasemi.	Pæon primus	- υ υ υ	Χαλκοδέτα.
	Pæon secundus	υ - υ υ	Ἐπῶνυμέ.
	Pæon tertius	υ υ - υ	Τέλεσαντά.
	Pæon quartus	υ υ υ -	Θεογένης.
Feet of 6 times, or Hexasemi.	Choriambus	- υ υ -	Ἡμέτερω.
	Antispæstus	υ - - υ	Χολῶθεντά.
	Ionicus a majore	- - υ υ	Κοσμητόρε.
	Ionicus a minore	υ υ - -	Βροτολογῶν.
Feet of 7 times, or Heptasemi.	Epitritus primus	υ - - -	Ἀνικητῶν.
	Epitritus secundus	- υ - -	Εὐρέθεντῶν.
	Epitritus tertius	- - υ -	Σωτηρίας.
	Epitritus quartus	- - - υ	Φωνήσασα.

Others less frequently used, are ;

Pyrriehius	υ υ	Τᾶδε.
Proceleusmaticus	υ υ υ υ	Βᾶθυκομα.
Amphybrachys	υ - υ	Δικαῖος.
Creticus	- υ -	Εὐρεθή.
Bacchius	υ - -	Χαλινῶ.
Antibacchius	- - υ	Ἐλθόντα.
Molossus	- - -	Οφθαλμῆς.

This performance is divided into two chapters. In the first the author considers metre as 'an arrangement of syllables and feet according to certain rules,' in which sense he divides it into nine species: 1. *Iambic*; 2. *Trochaic*; 3. *Anapæstic*; 4. *Dactylic*; 5. *Choriambic*; 6. *Antispæstic*; 7. *Ionic a majore*; 8. *Ionic a minore*; 9. *Pæonic*. The nature of each species and its variations is considered with great accuracy and precision. The second chapter is chiefly taken up in giving an account of the various compositions and modifications of these metres, and the names by which such as deviate from common rules

rules are to be distinguished. To those unversed in Grecian lore any quotation, we apprehend, would be extremely unentertaining; to those who are, we recommend the performance itself for farther information.

A Treatise on Comparative Anatomy. By Alexander Monro, M.D. Fellow of the Royal Society, Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and late Professor of Medicine and Anatomy in the University of Edinburgh. Published by his Son, Alexander Monro, M.D. Professor of Medicine and of Anatomy and Surgery in the University of Edinburgh. A new Edition: with considerable Improvements and Additions, by other Hands. 12mo. 2s. in Boards. Robinson.

THIS Treatise was published in the year 1744, with a preface, as was said, by a physician. It consisted of observations compiled from notes, taken by students who had attended the lectures of the late Dr. Monro, and was so favourably received, that copies were extremely scarce. The present professor confessed its author by inserting it in the edition of his father's works; and it was there corrected, though few additions were made to it. In this edition, which contains nearly double the quantity of the former one, though its bulk is not enlarged, many additions are made from the lectures of the son, and other sources which are not particularly mentioned. The letter in the former edition, which is now before us, is changed into a preface, by the omission of its beginning and end. The former is of little consequence, but the latter contained a handsome eulogium on the late professor, which we were sorry to lose. We know not that its author was ever even guessed at; but the preface itself is no trifling performance, and points out the importance of comparative anatomy, with singular perspicuity and precision.

The augmentations are very numerous in almost every article; but chiefly in those of the dogs, fowls, and fishes. The additions to the anatomy of fowls chiefly relate to the incubation. The new articles are on amphibious animals, serpents, insects, &c. and these are executed with apparent exactness. The progress of incubation is related from Bellini, Harvey, &c. We were a little surprised to find that the observations of Haller had been overlooked; but, in other respects, the history is pretty complete. The author is decidedly of opinion that the chick does not swallow during this period. As this description is long, and its different parts much connected, we shall select, as a specimen of this author's labours, the description of the absorbing vessels of the tortoise.

* **ABSORBENTS.** The absorbent system in the turtle, like that in the former class, consists of lacteals and lymphatics, with their common trunks the thoracic ducts; but differs from it in having no obvious lymphatic glands on any part of its body, nor plexus formed at the termination in the red veins.

* The lacteals accompany the blood-vessels upon the mesentery, and form frequent net-works across these vessels: near the root of the mesentery a plexus is formed, which communicates with the lymphatics coming from the kidneys and parts near the anus. At the root of the mesentery on the left side of the spine, the lymphatics of the spleen join the lacteals; and immediately above this a plexus is formed, which lies upon the right aorta. From this plexus a large branch arises, which passes behind the right aorta to the left side, and gets before the left aorta, where it assists in forming a very large receptaculum, which lies upon that artery.

* From this receptaculum arise the thoracic ducts. From its right side goes one trunk, which is joined by that large branch that came from the plexus to the left side of the right aorta, and then passes over the spine. This trunk is the thoracic duct of the right side: for having got to the right side of the spine, it runs upwards, on the inside of the right aorta, towards the right subclavian vein; and when it has advanced a little above the lungs, it divides into branches, which near the same place are joined by a large branch, that comes up on the outside of the aorta. From this part upwards, those vessels divide and subdivide, and are afterwards joined by the lymphatics of the neck, which likewise form branches before they join those from below. So that between the thoracic duct and the lymphatics of the same side of the neck, a very intricate net-work is formed; from which a branch goes into the angle between the jugular vein and the lower part or trunk of the subclavian. This branch lies therefore on the inside of the jugular vein, whilst another gets to the outside of it, and seems to terminate in it, a little above the angle, between that vein and the subclavian.

* Into the above-mentioned receptaculum the lymphatics of the stomach and duodenum likewise enter. Those of the duodenum run by the side of the pancreas, and probably receive its lymphatics and a part of those of the liver. The lymphatics of the stomach and duodenum, have very numerous anastomoses, and form a beautiful net-work on the artery, which they accompany. From this receptaculum likewise (besides the trunk already mentioned, which goes to the right side) arise two other trunks pretty equal in size; one of which runs upon the left side, and the other upon the right side of the left aorta, till they come within two or three inches of the left subclavian vein; where they join behind the aorta, and form a number of branches, which are afterwards joined by the lymphatics of the left side of the neck; so that here a plexus is formed as
upon

upon the right side. From this plexus a branch issues, which opens into the angle between the jugular and subclavian vein.'

In our Fifty-sixth Volume, p. 411, we transcribed Mr. Hunter's account of the organs of hearing in fishes; the description, in this little compendium, is not very different, and we have only to add, that the present professor of anatomy (Dr. Monro) has lately discovered a meatus externus, which leads to the internal ear; but we are not informed whether it is general, or only, as appears from this work, peculiar to the skate kind.

On the whole, we wish to express our obligations to the editor, for the improved state of this work, in which, from its size, he has not very attentively considered his own emolument. But we would not whisper a complaint of this kind, for we fear he will have few imitators.

MONTHLY CATALOGUE.

P O L I T I C A L.

Representation to his Majesty on the Speech from the Throne, moved in the House of Commons by the Right Hon. Edmund Burke, &c.
4to. 1s. 6d. Debrett.

SHOULD this Representation be estimated by the reception it met with in the house of commons, where it passed in the negative, even the warmest friends of the author must be silent in its praise. Nor, in its present improved state, with the addition of a preface and annotations, will it be found more worthy of critical approbation than it was of parliamentary concurrence. It is evidently intended as a vindication of the East India bill of last year; but through all the specious colouring which Mr. Burke has been able to bestow, it is too deeply marked with artifice to produce any change in the public opinion relative to that celebrated transaction. On some collateral topics, which the author of the Representation has thought proper to introduce, he discovers a mode of reasoning so evidently fallacious that it cannot be passed over unobserved. He affirms, what we hope is true, that the commons are well instructed in their own rights and privileges; that they are not unacquainted with the rights and privileges of the house of peers; and that they know and respect the lawful prerogatives of the crown: but with all this knowledge they cannot admit any thing concerning the existence of a balance of those rights, privileges, and prerogatives. We soon learn the cause of this extreme fastidiousness of the orator. It is that he may charge the present ministers with the *fiction* of this odious balance. They may be considered as uncommonly happy ministers, whose

opponent, in asserting them, can found the impeachment only in metaphor. But the idea of a balance in the British constitution (for, notwithstanding the refinement of our author, the expression applies to nothing else than the reciprocally controuling and acknowledged powers of the three different branches of the legislature) is, in our opinion, neither a new nor a dangerous doctrine. We are not much surprised however, that the existence of this palladium should be represented as visionary, by one of those who have been publicly reprobated for more than a *fictitious* attempt to destroy it. Mr. Burke represents the late dissolution of parliament as *penal*, and therefore a dangerous precedent; but does he not know that the conduct of those who were the objects of the supposed penalty, rendered the measure not only expedient, but indispensable? Such a production as that now before us is entitled to no farther notice. It was, from the beginning, a superfetation, and its end has been suitable to its origin.

Thoughts on the National Debt, and on Taxation. Small 8vo. 1s. W. Nicoll.

This pamphlet is almost entirely employed on the consideration of taxes, which the author, in the manner of Mr. Dobbs, proposes to concentrate in a few articles. According to his plan, though a number of taxes should be abolished, the annual revenue of the nation would be greatly increased, and yet the public burden on each individual be far less considerable than at present. But we are of opinion, that such an innovation, however plausible, must be long resounded in the ears of ministers before they will endeavour to adopt it. Such a mode of taxation can only be admissible with safety upon the supposition, that every person, who was liable to pay the concentrated tax, should be solvent. Where the contrary happened, which probably will always be too frequent an occurrence, the deficiency of the public revenue would be felt by the government with a severity proportioned to the degree of the intended concentration.

Considerations on the National Debt. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Dilly.

To simplify the complicated mass of the public finances, would be an object highly desirable to every lover of his country; but there is reason for thinking that the problem is more specious in theory than effectual, or even admissible, in practice. When speculations on so important a subject however are conducted with ingenuity, they have a claim to attention; and, though never carried into execution, may prove the means of opening new channels of research, and throwing greater light on the principles of political œconomy. The outlines of the plan proposed by this author are to lay a small duty of one per cent. on all goods and merchandize imported, *ad valorem*; and to put a small rate on goods exported, of only one quarter per cent. *ad valorem*, to prevent over-entries, and smuggling wool, &c.
Should

Should his plan be adopted in its full extent, he is confident that more money will be annually raised than has hitherto ever been drawn from the public resources; that individuals will not pay half the present taxes; that smuggling will be entirely prevented; and the revenue officers provided for during life; that the poor will be exempted from every contribution; and the public debt gradually discharged. While the author endeavours to awaken the nation to the prospect of such extraordinary advantages, he also recommends, as a measure of great utility, a commercial union with Ireland.

The State of the Public Debts and Finances, at signing the Preliminary Articles of Peace in January, 1783. With a Plan for raising Money by public Loans, and for redeeming the public Debts. By Richard Price, D. D. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Cadell.

Dr. Price's abilities in political arithmetic have been long known to the public, and the pamphlet before us is a proof of his unremitting attention to this subject. Its title is sufficiently explanatory of its contents; and those who are interested in calculations of this kind will find it worthy of their attention. He is a zealous advocate for his friend lord Shelburne, and endeavours to shew that the terms of the peace were such as must prove of prodigious advantage to this country. Upon the probable consequences that would have attended a continuance of the war, he has the following observations:

'When I reflect on this account, and consider, that, had the war been continued, we might possibly have met with more disasters, and found ourselves under a necessity of continuing it, not for one but two, or three, or four years longer; and when I consider farther, how insignificant the cessions are which have been made to obtain the peace compared with one year's expence of the war; and that our ability to support an expence so enormous has no solid foundation, but is derived from a resource precarious, delusive, and dangerous in the highest degree. — When I think of all this, I cannot but bless the makers of the peace, and at the same time execrate the opposition to it, as an effect of ambitious intrigue and party rage, which shews the worst kind of political depravity. — Still, however, we are far from being safe. Much hard work remains to be done. If, before another war begins, the revenue is not re-instated, the public debts put into a fixed course of payment, and some progress made in reducing them, it is impossible but the catastrophe must come towards which we have been for some time advancing.'

Report from the Select Committee, appointed to examine the Reports of the Directors of the East India Company. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Wilkie.

This report was presented to the house of Commons on the 22d of June, and consists of forty-three articles, which it would not only be tedious, but unnecessary to enumerate.

An Answer to Thoughts on a parliamentary Reform. 8vo. 1s. Debrett.

In respect of the pamphlet to which this is an answer, we observed, in our Review for May last, that the author took a general view of the several plans, proposed by different writers, for carrying into effect a reform of parliament. After considering the whole, he declared himself of opinion, that the constitution of parliament, as now established, is perhaps equally advantageous to the nation with any that can be devised; and he therefore briefly argued against any innovation. This conduct, however moderate or well founded, coincides not with the ideas of the respondent, who urges the necessity of a reform, chiefly by arguments analagous to those which have been already employed on the same subject.

Thoughts on the present Manner of quartering the Troops on the Coast, to assist the Revenue Officers; and its Defects. By R. Kelsall, Lieutenant in the late Nineteenth Regiment of Light Dragoons. 8vo. 6d. Flexney.

The author of this pamphlet represents the custom of quartering dragoons along the coast, for assisting the revenue officers against smugglers, as not only impolitic, but extremely prejudicial to the health of the troops, on account of the putrid air from the marshy situations so frequent in those parts. Instead of quartering them along the coast, where the smugglers, he observes, are assisted by the inhabitants, either from interest or fear, he proposes that a line of troops should be placed in the towns and hamlets from ten to fifteen miles up the country; by which means he is of opinion that many more seizures might be made. If government however should continue determined that the troops shall occupy the old quarters, he suggests the expediency of allowing a small addition of pay to the parties stationed in the marshes, that they may be the better enabled to encounter the unwholesomeness of the air; and likewise a quantity of tobacco, to be distributed under the direction of the colonel. Mr. Kelsall farther recommends that a commissioned officer should be sent out with every party against smugglers; and he adduces very plausible reasons for evincing that infantry is much better adapted to this service than dragoons.

A Letter to the Independent Electors of Westminster, in the Interest of Lord Hood and Sir Cecil Wray. 8vo. 1s. Stockdale.

In this Letter sir Cecil Wray, from the respect which he entertains for the independent electors of Westminster, has condescended to vindicate himself against the three principal objects of clamour so industriously propagated to his disadvantage during the late poll. The first of these is, that he had proposed to pull down Chelsea hospital, and thereby turn adrift and starve the pensioners, who are justly entitled to the gratitude and protection of their country. But this injurious charge, which had not the smallest foundation in truth, is refuted by sir Cecil Wray in the most satisfactory manner.

The

The next article of accusation is the proposed tax on servant maids. In regard to this measure, sir Cecil Wray informs us, that the idea of it originated with Mr. Bellamy, one of his former constituents, who, as a substitute to the receipt-tax, which he was instructed to oppose, recommended to him to suggest, in the house of Commons, a tax of ten shillings on each servant maid. In compliance with the request preferred by the committee of his constituents, he accordingly made the proposal in parliament; and we must admit, with sir Cecil, that the conduct of Mr. Bellamy, in first urging him to suggest such a tax, and afterwards promoting the public obloquy, for his compliance, cannot be very easily reconciled with the principles either of honour or generosity. The tax, undoubtedly, might have been oppressive in many instances; but could not justly subject the proposer to the odium which sir Cecil Wray's adversaries endeavoured, by means of it, to excite against him: for, as he observes, the tax would not have fallen on the servant, but on the master or mistress.

The third charge brought against sir Cecil Wray is his desertion of Mr. Fox; from which he also vindicates himself in a manner the most clear, explicit, and decisive. It appears by two letters from Mr. Fox, produced in the pamphlet, that in 1782, sir Cecil Wray was so far from entertaining any desire of becoming member for Westminster, that he was nominated as a candidate when at Scarborough, even without his knowledge; and he afterwards consented to the measure, merely out of compliance with the most earnest and repeated solicitations of Mr. Fox, who considered it as an affair of the utmost importance to his party. Sir Cecil Wray, therefore, in becoming a candidate at the time mentioned, did not receive any favour from Mr. Fox, but actually conferred one upon that gentleman. It farther appears by the clearest evidence, that sir Cecil Wray disapproved of the coalition from the beginning. When that event took place, however, he continued to act in his public capacity with perfect independence, giving his suffrage, on every occasion, according to his judgment; nor did he ever take a more decided part, until he found that the violence of some men threatened ruin to the constitution. Upon the whole, the conduct of sir Cecil Wray, so far from meriting the illiberal invectives which have been supported against him by his adversaries, seems amply intitled to the approbation of every person of candor and discernment.

Book of the Wars of Westminster, &c. 2s. 6d. Cornwell.

The wars of Westminster are not more disgraceful to public virtue, than this despicable imitation of the scripture is to the genius of its author.

P O E T R Y.

Poems, by David Robertson. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Creech, Edinburgh.

Of these Poems, we are rather at a loss to decide whether they deserve most praise or censure. They bear evident marks

of genius and fancy, and as evident ones of incorrectness and puerility. We would willingly incline to the more favourable opinion, as we are led to suppose, from some passages, that the author is a young adventurer in the poetic lists. We shall therefore pass over several defects which might otherwise have deserved reprehension, and allow that many passages are neither destitute of elegance nor taste. If our conjecture is just, we doubt not but these wild saplings will fully repay the labour of their cultivation. The following personification of Sensibility, in the principal poem, entitled *L'Inamorato*, will, we apprehend, justify our sentiments.

‘ On a fleecy cloud she rode,
A sky-wove robe around her flow’d.
In folds so fine, it more reveal’d
Her mingling beauties, than conceal’d ;
So shines the lily of the dale,
Array’d in Nature’s softest hue,
When opening to the morning gale
’Tis thinly veil’d in lucid dew.
Love’s soft’ning blush, and Beauty’s flame,
Brighten’d on her graceful frame ;
And life’s cerulean veins were seen
Meand’ring through her snowy skin :
In humid lustre, mildly shone,
Her timid eye ; and “ for her crown,
The red-breast, and the turtle-dove,”
Mimosa’s trembling leaves had wove.
When from her bosom burst the sigh,
Or secret anguish fill’d her eye,
The leaves, as conscious of her woe,
No more in native verdure blow,
But seem in sympathy to share
Her pang of sorrow and of care ;
Yet soon as grief no more is seen
To o’ercast her lovely mien,
Her cheeks their vivid glow regain,
And rapture throbs in every vein ;
Again the leaves begin to bloom,
And a freier green resume.’

Westminster-Abbey : an Elegiac Poem. By the Rev. Thomas Maurice, A. B. 4to. 3s. Kearsley.

A sensible and ingenious preface, giving a summary account of the first foundation and final completion of this venerable structure, is prefixed to the poem. The author seems, in many places, to have copied the beautiful reflections made by Addison, (*Spect.* N^o 26,) in the same awful fabrick : or we may suppose that every man of sense and feeling will have similar ideas on the same subject in a similar situation. The poem opens with great solemnity, in the following manner.

‘ Majestic

' Majestic monument of pious toil,
Whose tow'rs sublime in Gothic grandeur soar,
Where Death sits brooding o'er his noblest spoil,
And strews with royal dust the sacred floor,

Unfold thy gloomy portals to my song —
Ye dusky isles, ye lonely cloysters hail!
Come, Inspiration, lead my steps along,
And all the secrets of the grave unveil.

Nor, Cynthia, thou thy glimmering fires deny
To gild the horrors of this dreadful gloom;
Where the night-phantom, swiftly gliding by,
Shoots o'er my path, and beckons to its tomb.

Now Darkness, shadowing wide the silent earth,
Bids Vice unmask and stalk her nightly round;
Now frantic Bacchanals renew their mirth,
While Commerce rests in golden slumbers bound.

Now Dissipation drives her whirling car
In courts to shine, or flaunt in masquerade;
Her blazing torches glitter from afar,
And pour meridian day on midnight's shade.

Hence Greatness with thy toys—thy stars, thy strings,
The jewell'd scepter and imperial crown;
My soul superior views the pride of kings,
And on the bright parade of courts looks down.

The glittering spoils that round ambition blaze,
The trophied arch, the golden canopy,
The plume refulgent with the diamond's rays,
The shout of millions echoing to the sky,

For the deep silence of the Grave I spurn—
And quit the living pageant for the dead:
Mine be the *plume* that shades yon sable urn,
While death's dark *canopy* inshrouds my head.'

We need not add, that the author has happily imitated the manner of Gray.

The French Metropolis. A Poem. In Three Books. 4to. 1s. 6d.
Cadell.

In the beginning of this poem we are informed that the author is not destitute of 'friends celestial.' He tells us,

' Phœbus' might,
With Trivia join'd, shall shield me in the fight.'

We congratulate him on his associates, in the bold-enterprize he has undertaken, which is no less than a general indiscriminate abuse of the whole French nation.—Witness the two following comprehensive lines.

' Unhappy land ! where truth's kick'd out of doors,
Where all the men are r — s, the women w — s.'

He might, however, have mentioned another coadjutor, Boileau : several passages of whose sixth satire are imitated in the first book of the present performance. We suppose he scorned to acknowledge any obligation to an enemy ; which is rather unfair.—He borrows a club, and then knocks down the lender's friends with it. Be that as it may, great is our author's enmity to the foes of Britain, great his patriotic spirit, and no less great his talents for the bathos ; as the following encomium on the ingenious Mr. Hatchett *, will evince.

' (Who knows not Hatchett ? him, whose labours roll,
Far as the northern from the southern pole !
Scarce the celestial smith, whose fabrics bear
Ethereal pow'rs o'er plains of bright'ning air,
Prodigious as his art ! excels the maker
To her imperial majesty, in Long-Acre.)'

Here we are transported from pole to pole, from men to gods, from earth to heaven ; and then gently set down at the door of her imperial majesty's coach-maker in Long Acre.—Whatever variety of sentiments may be formed of this author's poetical merit, they will all doubtless concur in regard to his superlative modesty ; to which, among many others, the lines that conclude the poem will bear ample testimony. The first of them are similar to the ' Jamque opus exegi,' &c. of Ovid, which has always been considered as no contemptible instance of *self-abasement* ; but those which follow them are as much superior to Ovid's in that respect, as in every other the Roman bard is to the British.

' At length the period of my care's attain'd ;
The race is finish'd, and the prize is gain'd.
To you, my countrymen, the work I give,
And what the Muse bestows, with thanks receive.
I ne'er again may trifling Gallia view ;
For whom, then, have I labour'd, but for you ?
Nor shall my toils be reap'd without reward ;
Albion shall ne'er neglect her patriot bard.
While scandal shall accompany green tea,
Or servants, masters—masters, servants be ;
While fashions, birth-day suits, whim, frogs, or dance,
Shall send the Briton to the realms of France ;
My praise the grateful trav'ler shall proclaim,
And Frenchmen curse, and Britons bless my name.'

Who will refuse assent to the motto chosen by our author, with the variation of one little particle ?

' I cannot bear *the* French metropolis.'

* Coach-maker to the empress of Russia.

The Political Songster ; or, a Touch on the Times, on various Subjects, adapted to common Tunes. The Third Edition. By John Free. 12mo. 1s. Pearson, Birmingham.

This honest fellow makes a little free with us, we apprehend, in his title-page, where he announces this publication as a third edition ; but if true, we congratulate him on the success of his labours, and the refined taste of our dear countrymen, in encouraging literary merit. In justice however to our Birmingham Pindar, we must observe, that there is nothing indecent in this Touch on the Times ; that though his expressions are sometimes coarse, his observations are often threwd, and that he possesses a happy knack at versification. A compliment, though disgusting to Pope, we hope not unpleasing to our patriotic publican, who, according to his own account of himself ;

‘ —having more than twice twelve years,
Been us’d to sing on state affairs,
Wherein he’s worn, beyond a doubt,
His constitution almost out,
Presumes his worthy, numerous friends,
On whose support his sale depends,
For just one shilling, paid at sight,
Will not his publication slight :
Who, when good news is brought to town,
Immediately to work sits down,
And business fairly to go through,
Writes songs, finds tunes, and sings them too.’

The rhyming preface, from whence we have taken the lines above, concludes thus :

‘ Whatever subject may arise,
Whatever fancy may devise,
No songster has a better plea
For printing, than—necessity.
In fact, each day, when children nine,
In perfect health sit down to dine—
Think not the whole can be maintain’d,
By what is from the ale-score gain’d :
Profits on beer and ballads too,
In these hard times will barely do.’

But we, for we like his humour, sincerely hope they will *do* ; that he will have a good *run* both of the one and the other, and rejoice the hearts of his nine children as well as his own.

The Libertine, a Poem, 8vo. 1s. Johnson.

If this writer cannot produce better arguments against vice, or at least *handle* his text more discreetly, we fear he will never make any converts to virtue. Were his abilities ever so great, his indiscretion would deserve severe censure ; for he declares in his preface, that, ‘ Most, if not all, of the characters de-

picted

picted in this poem, are exhibited in real life; and an intelligent reader will, without much difficulty, perceive where they may be found.' What is this but to convert a professedly moral poem into a libel against individuals? Like the person mentioned in the *Spectator*, who changed the *Whole Duty of Man* into a satire, by writing his neighbours names in the margin against the particular vices to which they were supposed most addicted. Luckily the portraits are so coarsely drawn, that unless a name was prefixed, it would be extremely difficult to trace any similitude; and of names, animate and inanimate, our author is peculiarly cautious. Thus he tells us that he has seen

'A youth of highest rank on shores Utopian,
With feet unhallow'd, trample on the name
Of R———.'

'To trample on a name' conveys no very clear idea; to trample on the initial letter of a name is obscurity itself. We are again told of this same Utopian, that

'Deprav'd, he scorns to waste a thought sublime
On deep concerns, momentous of the state,
Though in full expectation of a c——.'

There is something enigmatical in this passage; except from the epithet 'deprav'd,' and the expressive hiatus at the conclusion we should think a compliment had been intended. Not to waste or rather to *throw away*, or reject serious thoughts when engaged in momentous affairs, is certainly meritorious; and this seems to be intimated by the following:

'Such dull insipid things far, far beneath
His more exalted notice lie.'

Where any thing severe is intended, even initials are rejected: the arrow flies in absolute darkness. Why it should be so in the following lines we cannot conjecture; they contain a pious prayer, that no true Englishman would refuse to join in.

'Thou Infinite! to mould the heart is thine,
And thine to keep. The h— of E——'s t——e
Preserve: nor let contamination foul
E'er stain the offspring of illustrious ——:
Be thou the guardian of our future ——:
His, ours th' advantage, thine the grateful praise.'

On the whole, we admire his caution, and wish the poem had consisted of blanks and initials. It would have saved some trouble, and deprived us of little amusement.

The Westminster Guide, a Poem, in Two Parts. 4to. 1s. Bladon.

From the number of jeux d'esprit occasioned by the late contest, the daily production of authors, who catch the occurrence of the moment, we wish to separate those which bear evident marks of superiority. That there are many such, may be supposed from the abilities and connections of one of the candidates, and the warmth with which each cause has been espoused by their respective friends.

This

This little poem is said to have been 'written hastily, and designed only for the amusement of a few friends.' It is undoubtedly the production of a man of genius; the whole abounds in elegant wit and satire; but perhaps the most pleasing part is the descriptive sketches of the female well-wishers to the cause; which, however, we have not room to extract.

Sacred Harmony; or, a Collection of Psalm Tunes, ancient and modern; containing, 1. More than a Hundred of the most approved plain and simple Airs; 2. A considerable Number of Tunes in Verse, and Chorus, and Fugues. The whole set in Four Parts, and arranged under their several Metres and Keys, With a figured Bass for the Harpsichord or Organ. Together with an Introduction to the Art of Singing. By R. Harrison. 5s. Johnson.

The greatest part of this volume consists of a variety of tunes adapted to sacred offices. It is however adorned with a preface, and some preliminary instructions. The preface is written with an enthusiasm inspired by a love of music, but still under the guidance of reason. The rules and explanations are remarkably clear and correct. We do not recollect having ever seen the hymns in any other collection: they are taken from the Psalms, and different parts of Scripture. Sacred poetry, it has been observed, seldom rises to any great excellence; but we cannot at present enter on this subject. It is not easy to give them a better character than that they resemble some of the best of Tate and Brady's versions of the Psalms.

N O V E L S.

Maria, or the Generous Rustic. 12mo. 2s. 6d. Cadell.

This little tale affords a melancholy satisfaction; for it is a tale of woe. We may reason on the probability of its truth, but we feel its influence; and while it affects, it may amend the heart. The firmness and resolution of Maria are certainly objects of imitation: they are not incompatible with the warmest affection, and perhaps are the strongest proofs of it; since to prefer the happiness of another to your own, is surely an uncommon, though a certain mark of inviolable attachment. The story is told with simplicity and neatness; the author depended on nature, and had little reason to look for the effects of artifice and refinement.

Barham Downs. A Novel. By the Author of Mount Henneth. 2 Vols. 12mo. 6s. Wilkie.

The author seems to have profited by our former sentiments. Without losing any share of his vivacity or brilliancy, his story is better connected, and the incidents more conformable to those of real life. His characters have little novelty; for we find in Wyman the strong sense and acute shrewdness of Gordon; and in Davis, the tenderness and generosity of one of the heroes of Mount Henneth. The former two differ only in professional distinctions, and the latter are more exactly copies of each other.

other. Yet our author's lively manner, his good sense, and his just but sarcastic reflections, obscure his errors, and render his present work highly agreeable. His style is still distinguished by its strength rather than its elegance; but his dialogue is less licentious, and his story is in every respect strictly moral.

M E D I C A L.

A Practical Treatise on the Efficacy of Stizolobium, or Cowhage, internally administered in Diseases occasioned by Worms. By William Chamberlaine, Surgeon. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Murray.

The stizolobium is well known to be the setæ of the pods of the *dolichos pruriens*. The name is taken from Dr. Browne; but it is not very euphonic; and we do not think, with our author, that it should be separated from the genus of *dolichos*. We believe it to be a very active and useful anthelmintic; but have seldom seen the pods in a proper state, the setæ by carriage being generally abraded. The trials we have made with the little which we could procure, have evinced not only its safety, but its efficacy. It did not seem superior in its anthelmintic power to our common bear's foot, which we again mention, to correct a mistake into which we had been led by a respectable author. We observed, vol. lvii. p. 172, that it was not a species of hellebore; on examining it lately, from a little distrust of our authority, we find it to be the *helleborus viridis* of Linnæus. Sp. Pl. 984. The remedy in question seems to act by its mechanical spiculæ, for it was fatal to worms, which had been discharged alive, and a decoction or tincture has no anthelmintic powers. The best way of exhibiting it is in treacle, or a sweetened mucilage of gum arabic. Common syrup is not sufficiently viscid. Our author seems to think that the dose is of little consequence, as the spiculæ have no effect on the stomach and bowels; but, though it will be safe to begin with small quantities, yet we did not find that large ones were dangerous.

This remedy was not unknown, and Mr. Chamberlaine has only contributed to enlarge its sphere; for this he is entitled to our thanks; but we cannot highly commend the composition of his pamphlet, or agree in many of his opinions.

D I V I N I T Y.

Sermons on Practical Subjects. By Robert Walker, late one of the Ministers of the High Church of Edinburgh. Vol. III. 8vo. 5s. in Boards. Dilly.

This excellent divine died in 1783, aged sixty-seven. A sermon was preached on that occasion by Dr. Blair, from Eccl. xii. 7. the latter part of which is inserted at the beginning of this volume.

These are plain, pious, and sensible discourses. The great purpose of the author is to reform the heart, and not to gratify curiosity by new enquiries, or please the imagination by brilliancy of language.

An

An Apology, and a Shield for Protestant Dissenters, in these Times of Instability and Misrepresentation. Four Letters to the Rev. Mr. Newton, Rector of the United Parishes of St. Mary Woolnoth and St. Mary Woolchurch. By a Dissenting Minister. Small 8vo. 2s. 6d. in Boards. Dilly.

In a late publication, entitled *Apologia*, Mr. Newton assigned his reasons for having left the dissenters, among whom he had formed his first connections, and for 'exercising his ministry' in the established church. The *Apologia*, of course, represented the non-conformists in an unfavourable light. This writer therefore endeavours to shew 'the futility' of Mr. Newton's arguments; exposing, in his turn, 'the worldly complexion', and, in his estimation, the numerous errors of the church. His intention is to vindicate his own persuasion, 'to prevent his ignorant and unwary brethren from backsliding, to settle the wavering and unstable, and to establish the Christian (as he emphatically expresses himself) in the way of truth, holiness, and eternal life.'

These motives are undoubtedly very laudable; and his observations and arguments appear to be the dictates of a pious and benevolent heart; notwithstanding this, it must be confessed, that many of them are founded on the prejudices of education, and on certain contracted and uncharitable notions concerning the principles and practices of the established church.

C O N T R O V E R S I A L.

Remarks on Dr. Priestley's Letters to Dr. Horsley. By Samuel Rowles. 8vo. 1s. Buckland.

This work consists of remarks on some positions in Dr. Priestley's late publications, on Matter and Spirit, on Necessity, on the Corruptions of Christianity, and in his Letters to Dr. Horsley. The author maintains the doctrine of an immaterial principle in man, an intermediate state, the pre-existence of Christ, the coequality of the three persons in the Trinity, the propriety of paying divine worship to Jesus Christ, the admission of inexplicable mysteries among the articles of our faith, &c.

Mr. Rowles combats his antagonist with strokes of irony and humour, and many texts of scripture. But, in the plenitude of his orthodoxy, he frequently uses such arguments as a cautious and prudent polemic would not choose to advance.

M I S C E L L A N E O U S.

The New Pocket Dictionary of the French and English Languages. By Thomas Nugent, LL.D. 4s. 6d. Dilly.

The form of this volume, which is like that of Entick's English Dictionary, is admirably calculated for young people at school, and for all those who wish to have a *word-book* in a pra-

portable size, and at a small expence. In this corrected and enlarged edition, the Supplement contains, in French and English, the names of the most remarkable kingdoms, provinces, cities, towns, mountains, seas, rivers, &c. the names of the most eminent men and women in ancient and modern history, and the names of the gods and goddesses in the pagan mythology, which are not to be found in any other work of this kind. It contains likewise a list of naval and military terms in French and English, by Mr. Charrier, French master to the Royal Academy at Portsmouth. This alone is a valuable improvement.

Mother Hubbard's Tale. 8vo. 1s. 6d. Dilly.

We can say nothing more of this performance than what the editor informs us. For what purpose he should singly select and reprint it from Spenser's works, we cannot conjecture. Some passages towards the conclusion might strike him as bearing a resemblance to our political transactions; or he might think, that from its title people would suppose it alluded to a well known character, and buy up the impression in expectation of finding some strictures on it. We may however guess wide of the mark, and nothing but a predilection for the poem itself may have caused its publication.

Advice to Booksellers, Perfumers, &c. not to sell any more Stamps with their Medicines, (Patent ones excepted); nor the Public to pay for them; founded on constitutional Principles. With Strictures on the Medicine Act; respectfully submitted to His Most Gracious Majesty, and both Houses of Parliament. By Francis Spillbury, Chymist. 8vo. 1s. Spillbury.

Mr. Spillbury is extremely angry with the medicine tax, and displays its inconsistency and hardship, as well as the inequality of the burthen, in strong and energetic rather than eloquent language. We are ready to allow, that the act requires amendment, since the line is not easily drawn between medicines and food, between common substances and those which are sold as peculiar preparations. The salt of lemons, or rather of wood sorrel, the patent sago, and milk chocolate, are all secret preparations of common foods, and may, in an extensive view, be considered as quack medicines. Magistery of bismuth, and common preparations of a similar class, are frequently, with a little disguise, exalted into the rank of secret cosmetics, and deserve the attention of the commissioners. It might be worth while perhaps to draw the line in this way. Where the preparation is a secret, let the ostensible proprietor purchase a licence for vending, not at a trifling rate, as at present, but at such a one as may be alone sufficient for the whole tax: the proportion to be settled by the general character, which is a pretty certain index of the sale. There would then be an obvious alternative; explain the process, or pay the tax. If the one is a hardship, the other is easy; and if a preparation

paration is not worth paying for, still the public may be benefited by knowing its foundation.

We are by no means clear that Mr. Spilsbury's advice is safe; but it is at least certain, that to apply to the act itself is the best method of determining any question. This he strongly inculcates, and in this alone we entirely agree with him.

A Description of a Net, invented to effectually destroy the Turnip Fly, and for preventing the Caterpillars being so destructive to the Turnips. 8vo. 6d. Wallis.

To the Description of the Net is prefixed a plate, representing the machine recommended. For want of opportunity, the author seems not yet to have had personal experience of the success of his invention; but he is informed by some who have made a trial, that it has been attended with extraordinary good effects.

The Doctrine of Eclipses, both Solar and Lunar; containing short and easy Precepts for computing Solar and Lunar Eclipses. The General and Geographical Phenomena of Solar Eclipses. The Phenomena of Solar Eclipses for any particular Place, with or without Parallaxes, fully and clearly explained, from the latest Discoveries and Improvements; whereby any Person of a moderate Capacity may be able in a short Time to solve those grand and sublime Astronomical Problems. With correct Astronomical Tables, from a manuscript Copy of the Tabule Dunelmenses, fitted to the Meridian of Greenwich. By Blith Hancock. 8vo. 2s. Law.

Diffusive title pages, like the pompous hand-bills of a quack, are but little to be depended upon. Had the author of this work performed but half of what he has promised, it would have been as much as could have been expected in a pamphlet containing only one hundred octavo pages. The Doctrine of Eclipses, and the requisite Astronomical Tables, cannot be fully and clearly explained, without entering into a number of particulars, which are not to be found in the present performance. What Mr. Hancock has done upon this subject is neither popular nor scientific. The preceptive part is confused and obscure; and his calculations have nothing either of brevity or accuracy to recommend them, in preference to those usually employed in this business.

An Appeal to the Fellows of the Royal Society, concerning the Measures taken by Sir Joseph Banks, their President, to compel Dr. Hutton to resign the Office of Secretary to the Society for their foreign Correspondence. By a Friend to Dr. Hutton. 8vo. 1s. Debrett.

This appeal is a well written defence of Dr. Hutton's conduct as foreign secretary to the Royal Society; and shews the measures that were used to remove him from that office, in the strongest light. Many of the facts are stated in nearly the same manner

manner as in a former publication upon this subject; but being detailed at a greater length, and connected with other particulars, not generally known, they afford us more information than was to be obtained from that pamphlet. It may be here seen that neither the integrity of an individual, his acknowledged abilities, nor the justice of his cause, are of any avail, when opposed to the claims of influence and power. From the representations contained in this performance, we should be led to form no very exalted idea of the present state of the Society; the scientific members appear to be but a small part of the whole body, and from the treatment they have received, their number is not likely to be much augmented.

Researches into some Parts of the Theory of the Planets, in which is solved the Problem, to determine the circular Orbit of a Planet by two Observations; exemplified in the new Planet. By Walter Minto. 8vo. 2s. 6d. Dilly.

The first section of this work contains part of the solution of the problem, to determine the orbit of a comet by three observations. by captain Templehoff, of the king of Prussia's artillery. This problem was proposed, a few years ago, by the Royal Academy of Arts and Belles Letters at Berlin; and premiums were adjudged to the marquis de Condercet, and to Mr. Templehoff, for their solutions of it.

Sections II. and III. consist of several methods for determining the radii vectores of the Planets, with the questions employed by professor Slop, of Pisa, for this purpose. The results in several of them are very different from each other, and their principal use seems to be that of their being applicable to the calculation employed in determining the orbits of some of the comets. By one of these equations, Mr. Slop has attempted to find the radius vector of the new planet, at the time of its opposition to the sun, on the 21st of December, 1781.

The fifth Section contains a number of observations on the new planet, by Mr. Herschel, Mr. Slop, professor Robinson of Edinburgh, and others, from its first discovery on the 13th of March, 1781, to the 23d of January, 1783; by which it is determined that the right ascension of the planet, on the 13th of March, was $84^{\circ} 0' 0''$, and its north declination $23^{\circ} 33' 0''$. The sixth and last sections are illustrative of the former, and are chiefly employed in determining the circular orbit of the new planet. This is all that can be done at present, as it has been observed for too short a time for its ecliptical orbit to be found with any tolerable degree of accuracy.—Mr. Minto appears to be well acquainted with his subject; and his work, we have no doubt, will be read with pleasure by those who interest themselves in inquiries of this nature.

